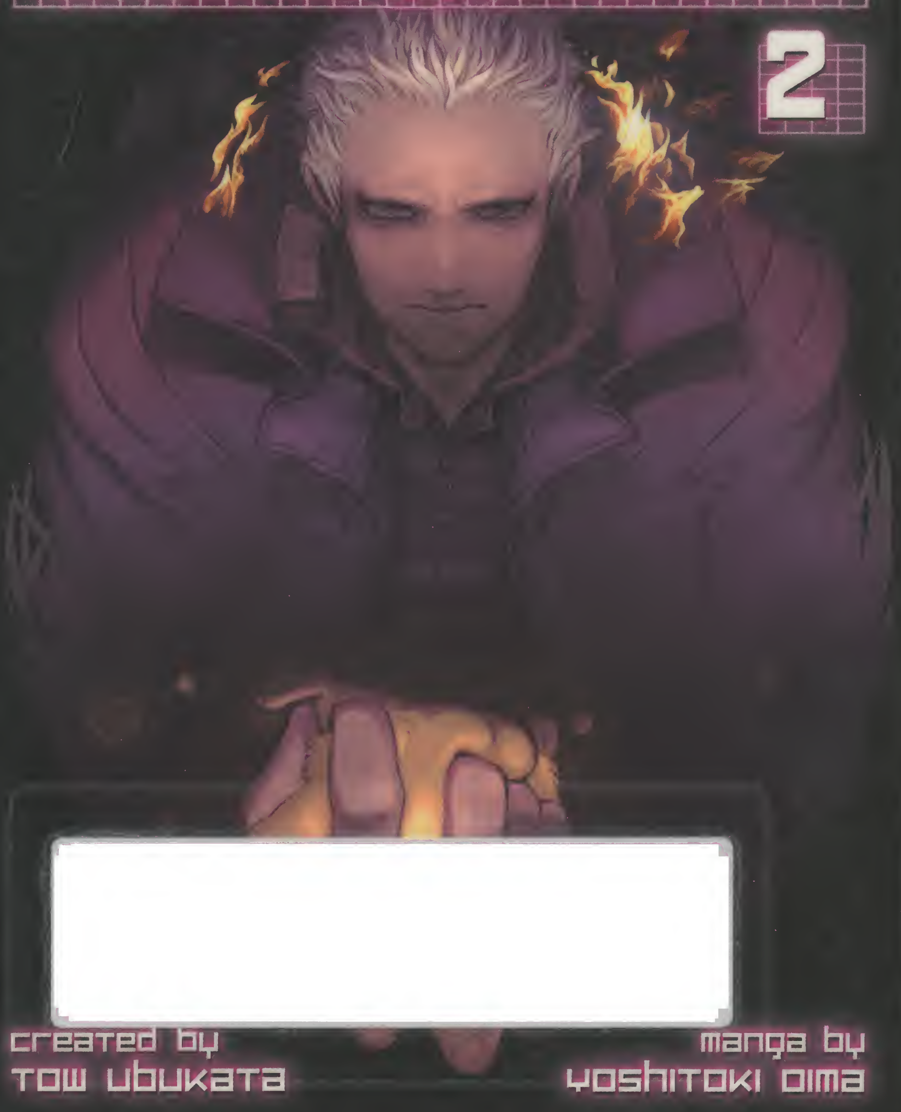
MARDOCK

マルドゥック・スクランブル

SCRAMBLE

2



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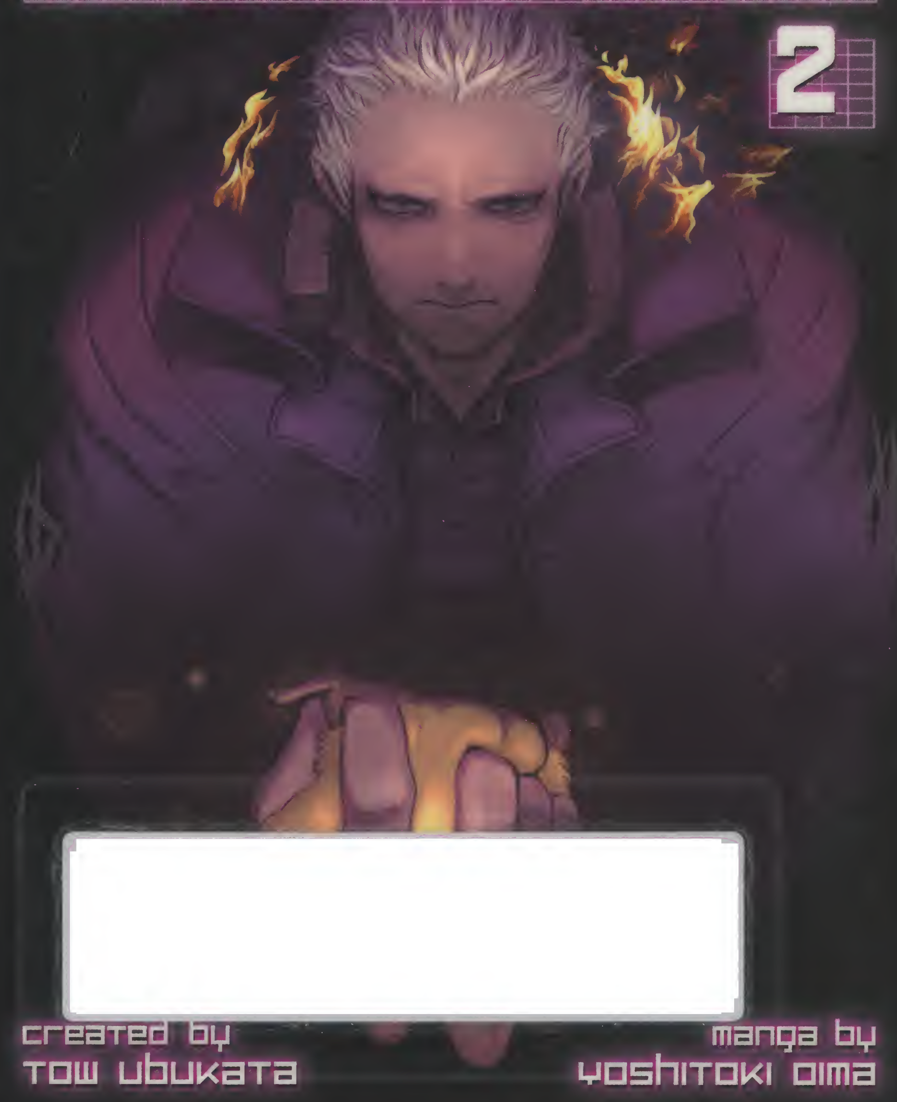
YOSHITOKI OIMA

MARDOCK

マルドゥック・スクランブル

SCRAMBLE

2



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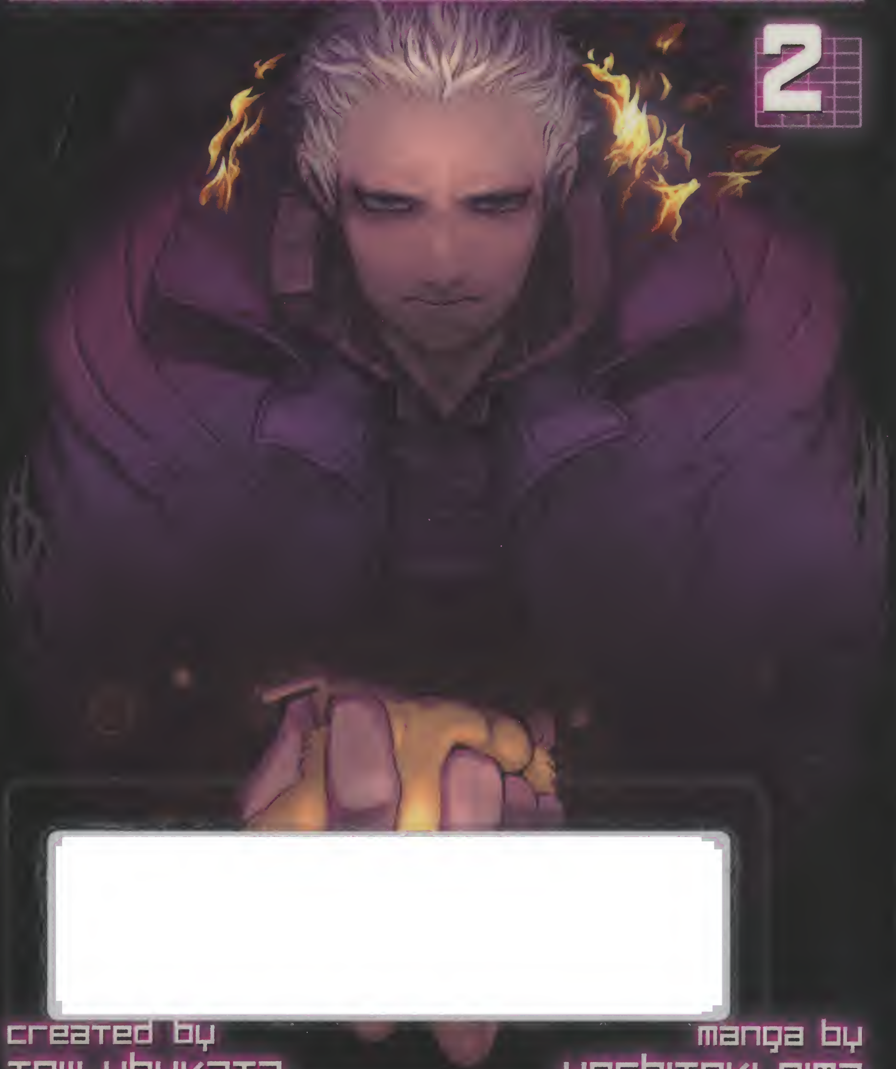
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

マルドゥック・スクランブル

2



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MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

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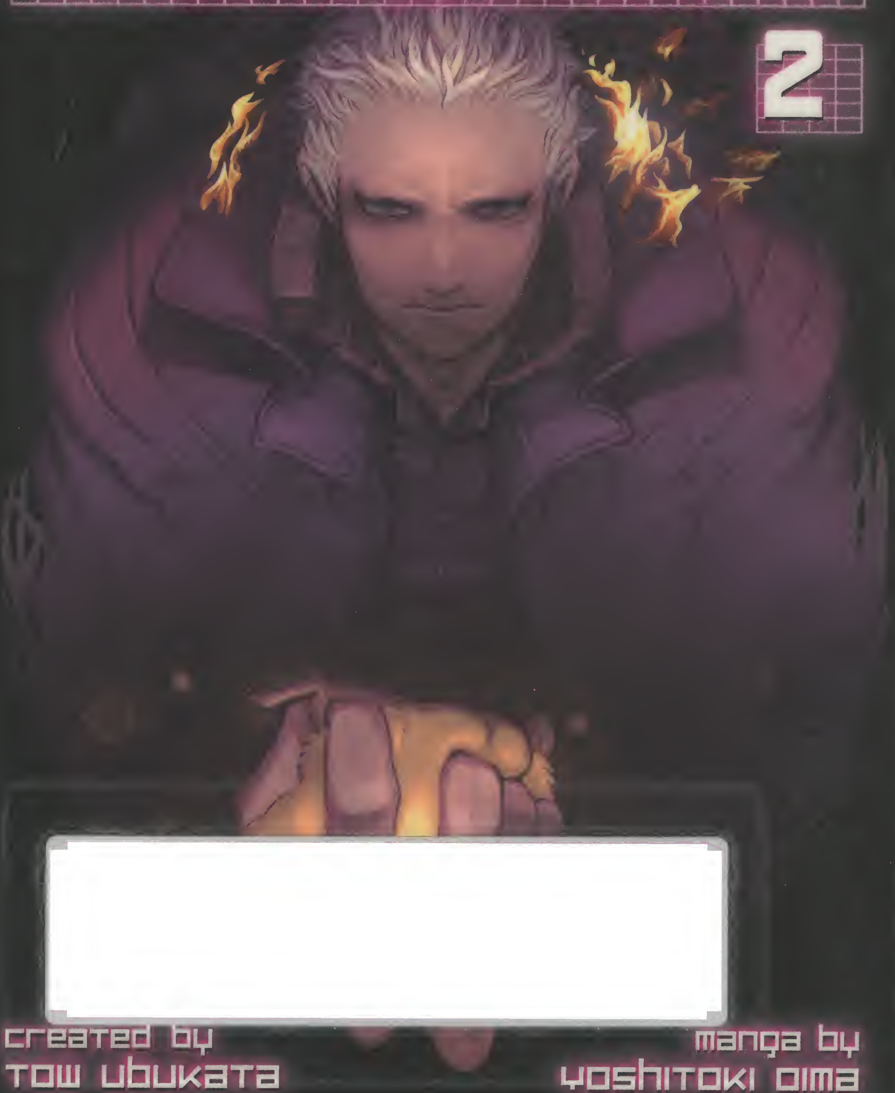
2



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YOSHITOKI OIMA

boiled in blood

Œufcoque's former partner, Boiled, comes after Rune and Œufcoque. A human manifestation of death and violence, nothing seems to be able to stop the relentless Boiled. Rune's only chance for survival is to commit with conviction to a partnership with Œufcoque. Together, will they be able to overcome the cold fury of Boiled? And what is the story behind his failed partnership with Œufcoque?

Includes special extras after the story!

boiled in blood

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boiled in blood

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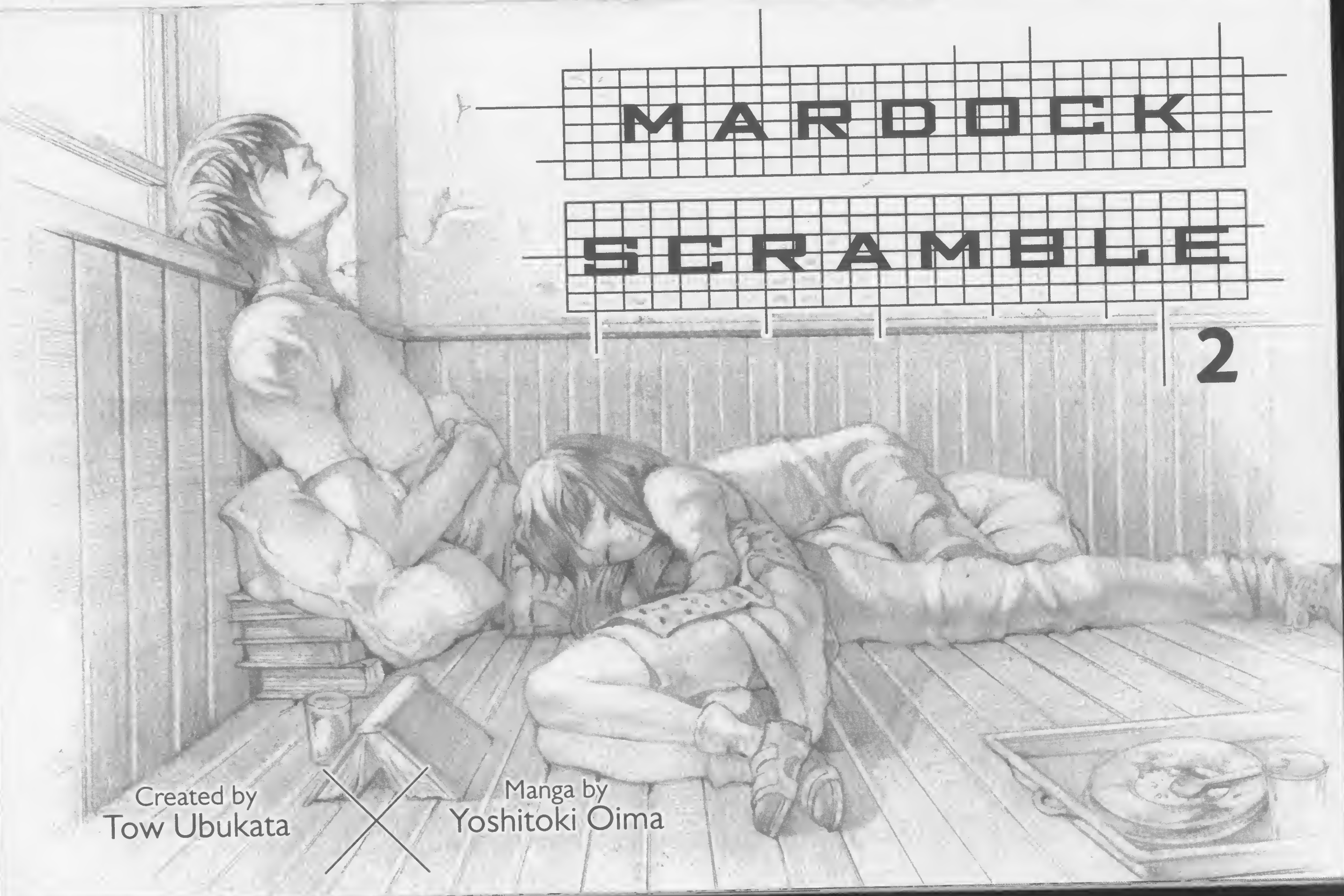
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

2



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Manga by
Yoshitoki Oima

MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

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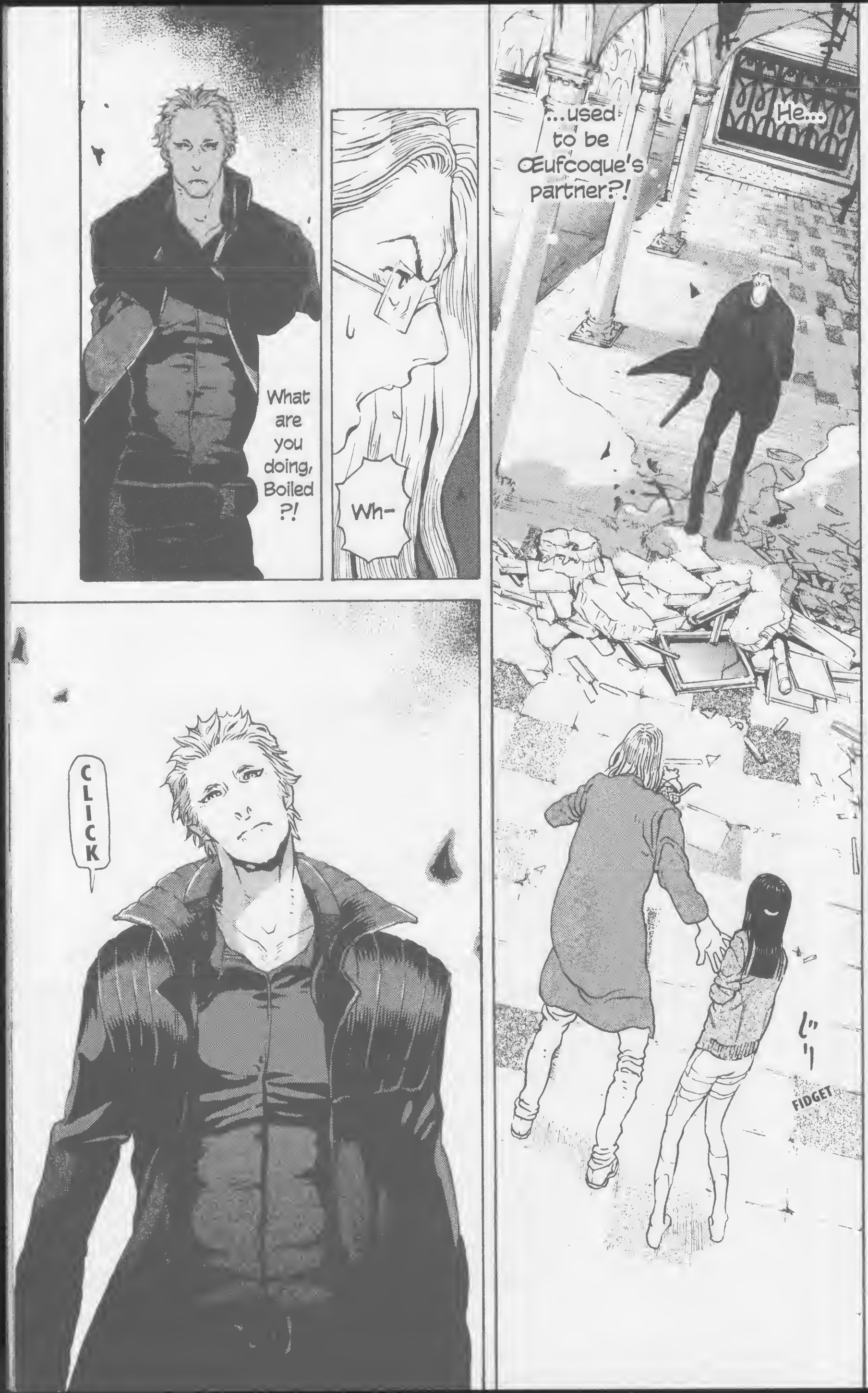
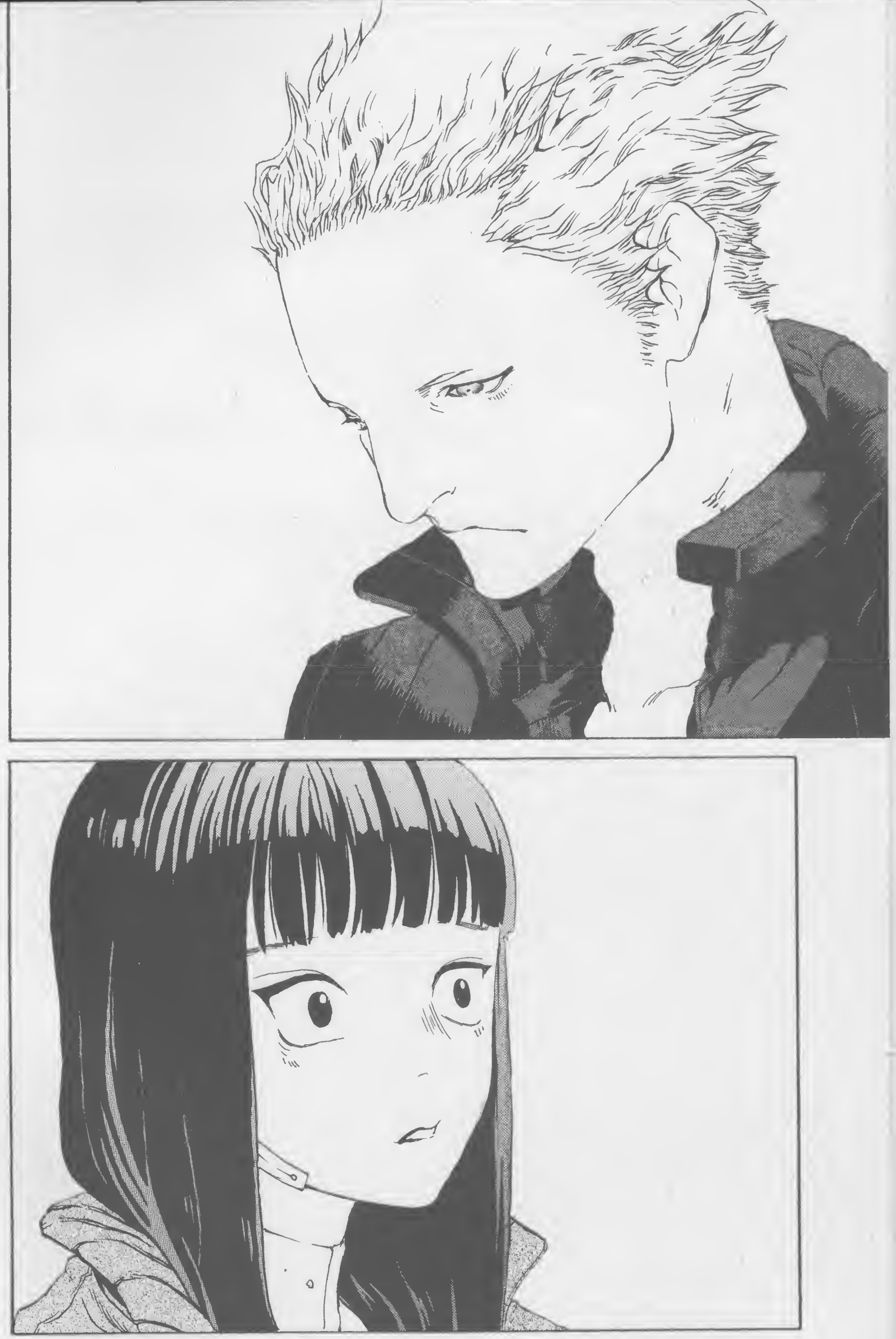
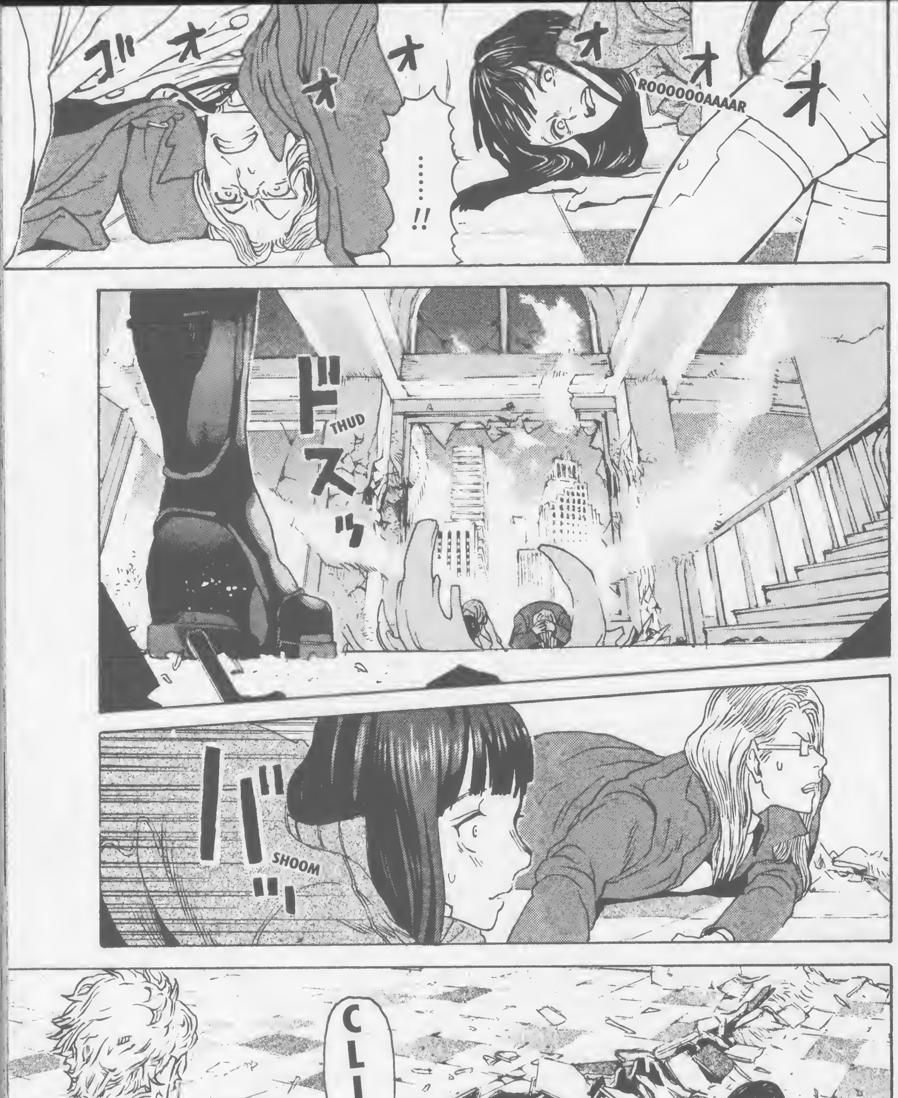
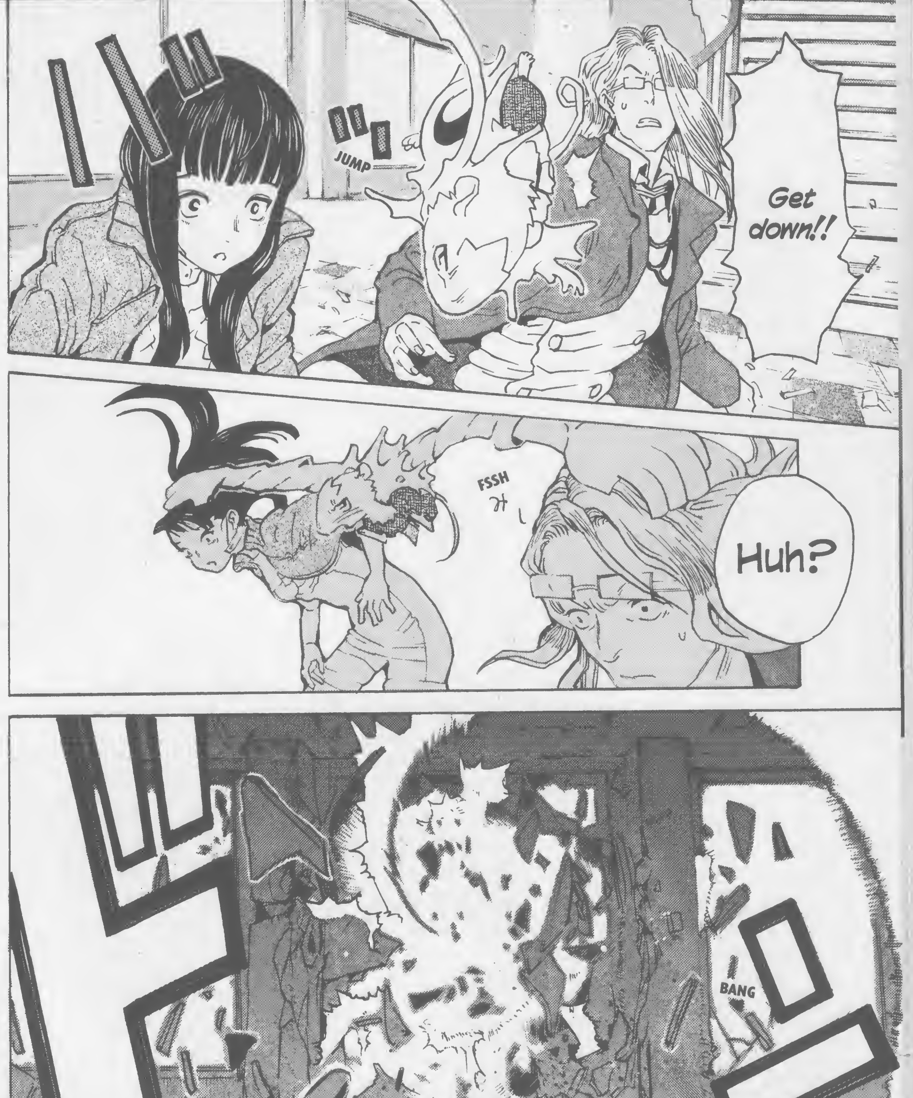
MARDOCK
SCRAMBLE

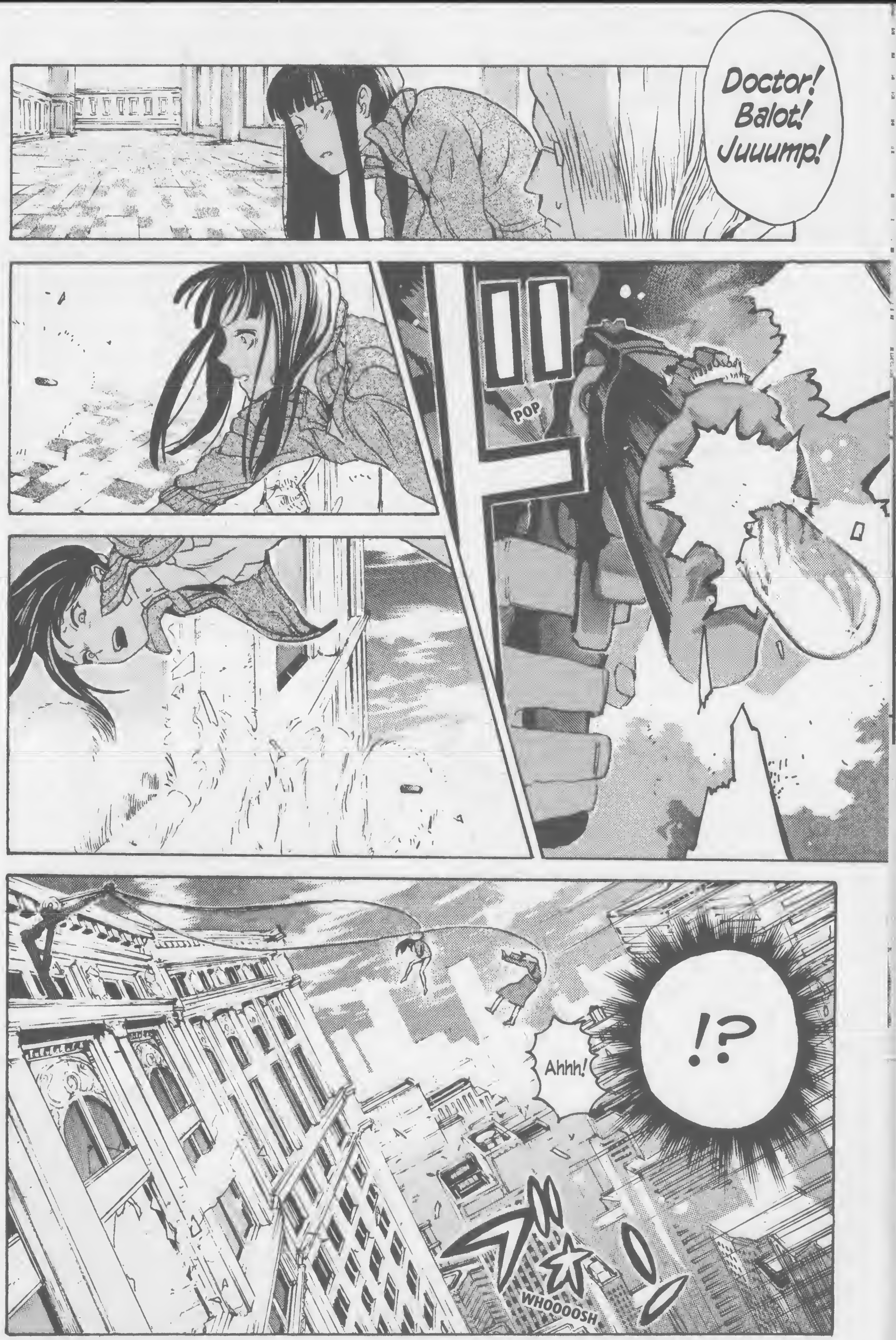
Chapter 4: Mixture (2)

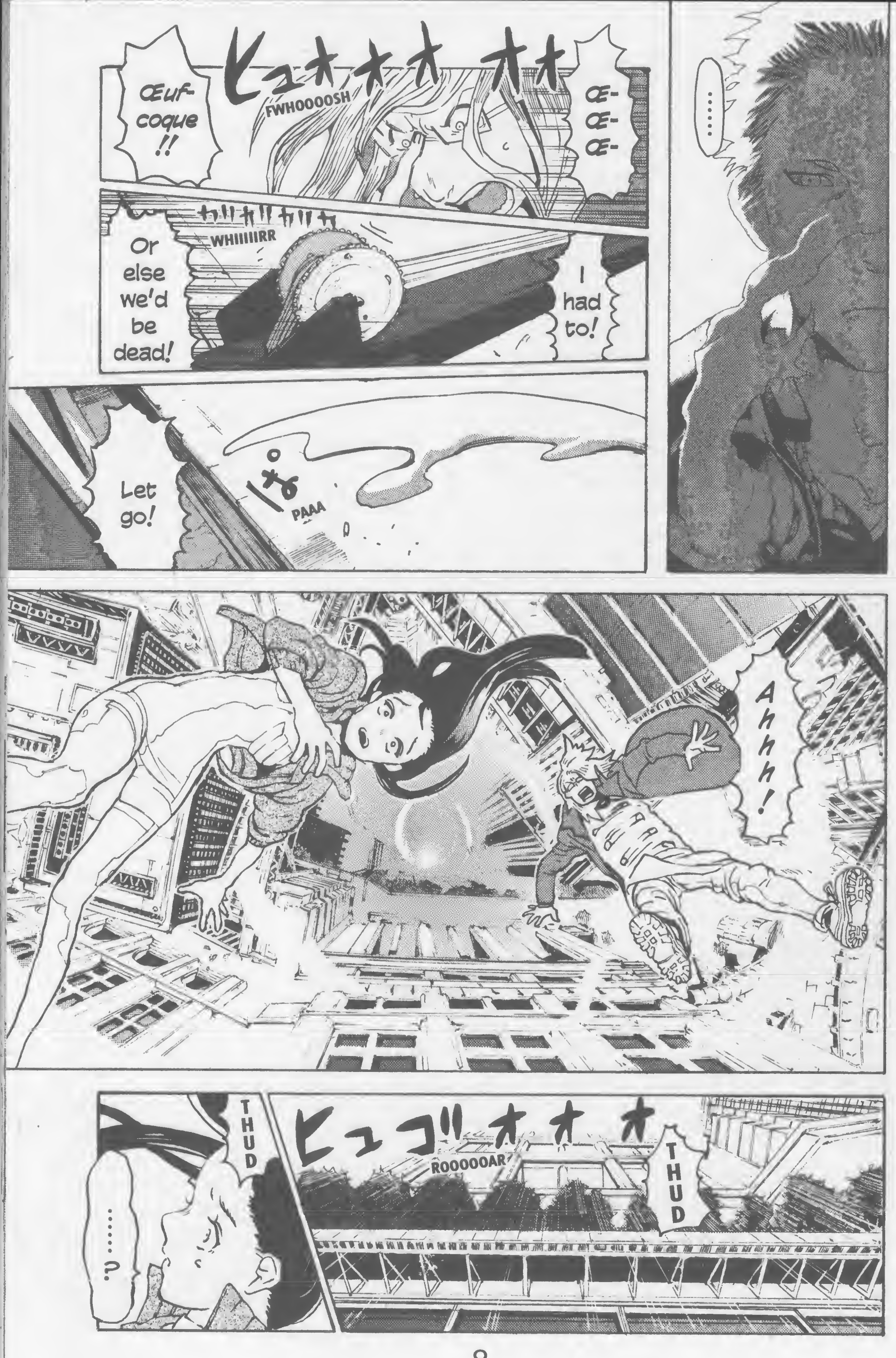

He...
...used to be Œufcoque's partner?!
FIDGET
Wh-
What are you doing, Boiled ?!
CLICK

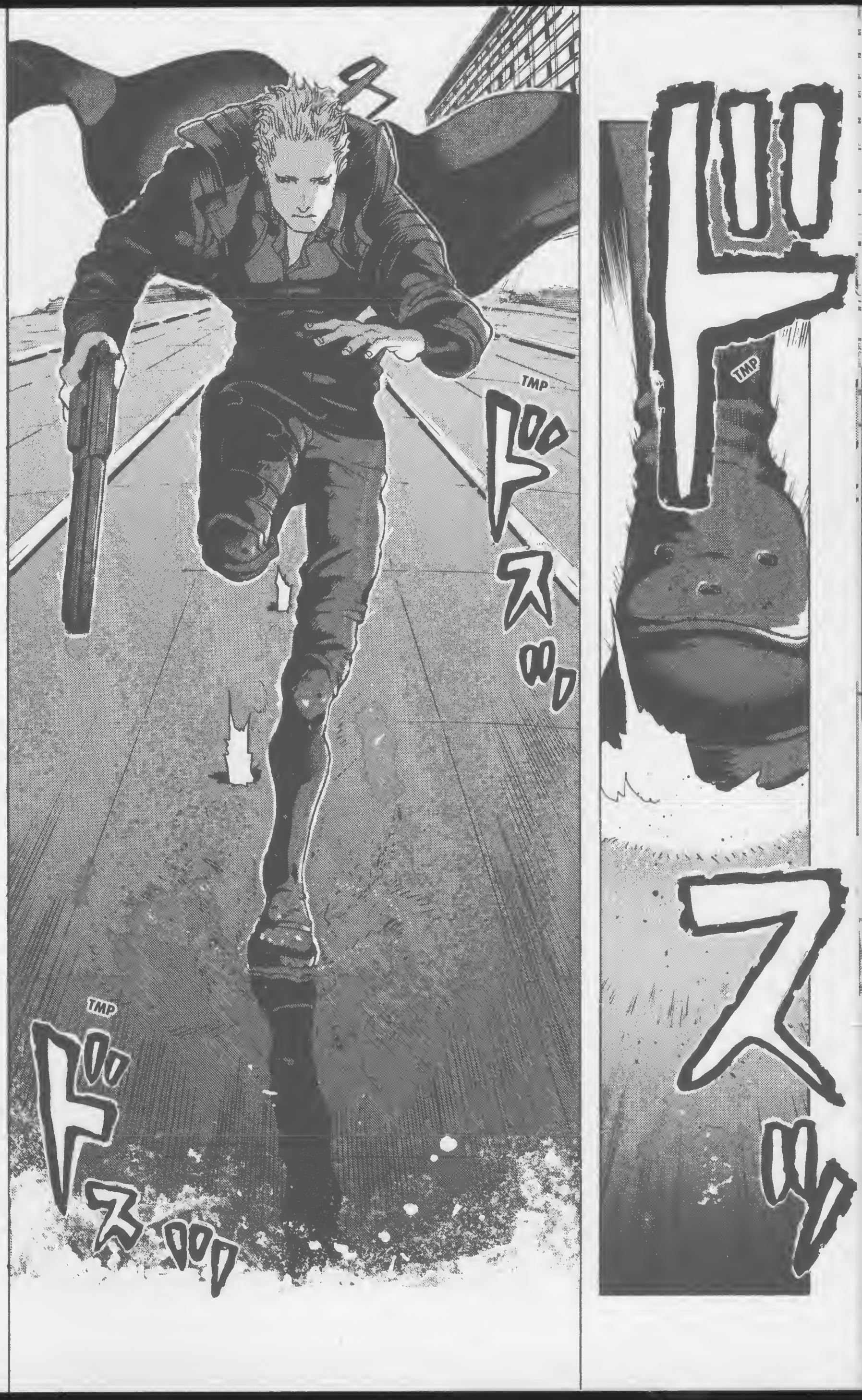


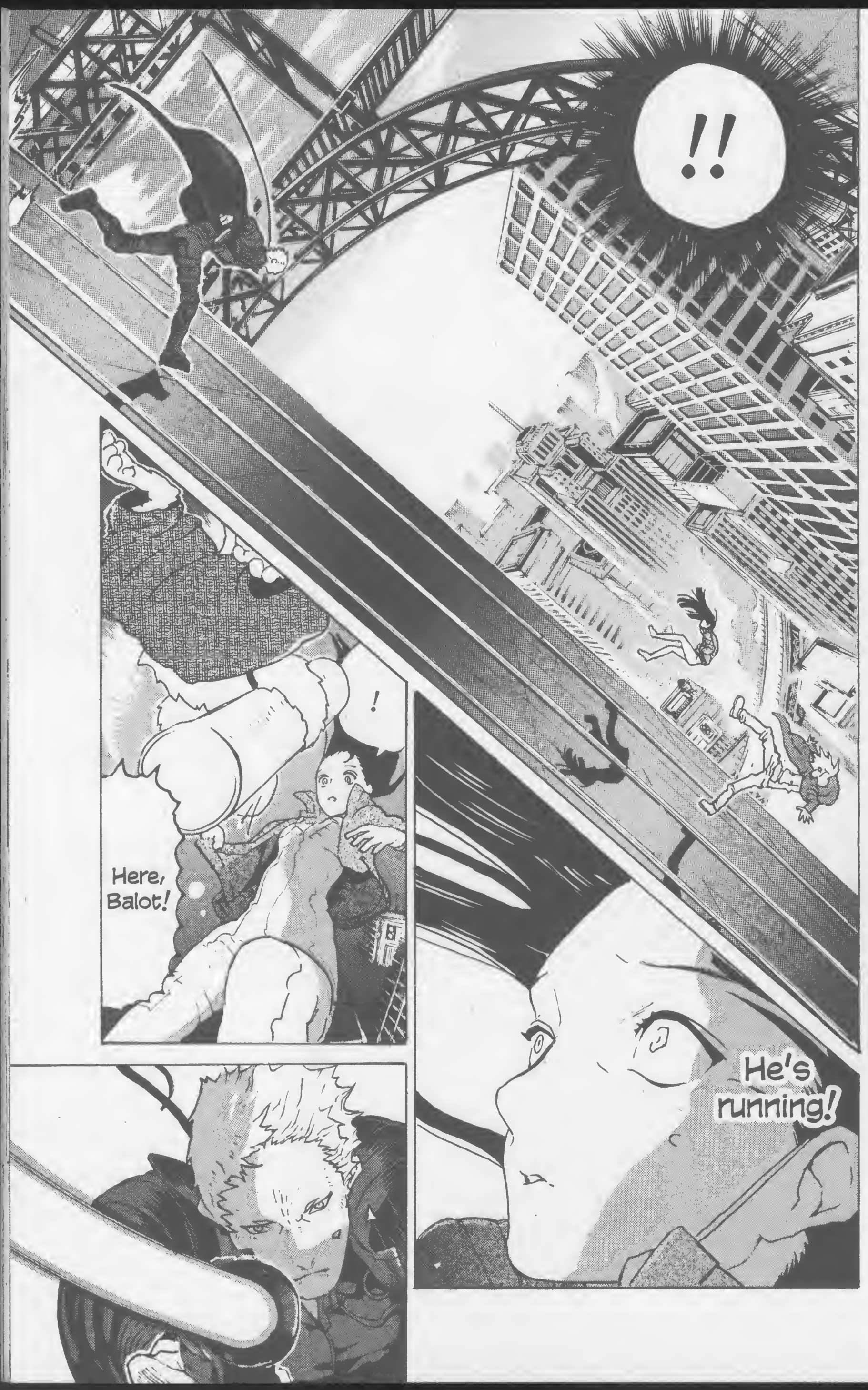

ゴオオオオオ
ROOOOOOAAAAR
……!!
ドスッ
THUD
バ
SHOOM
CLICK

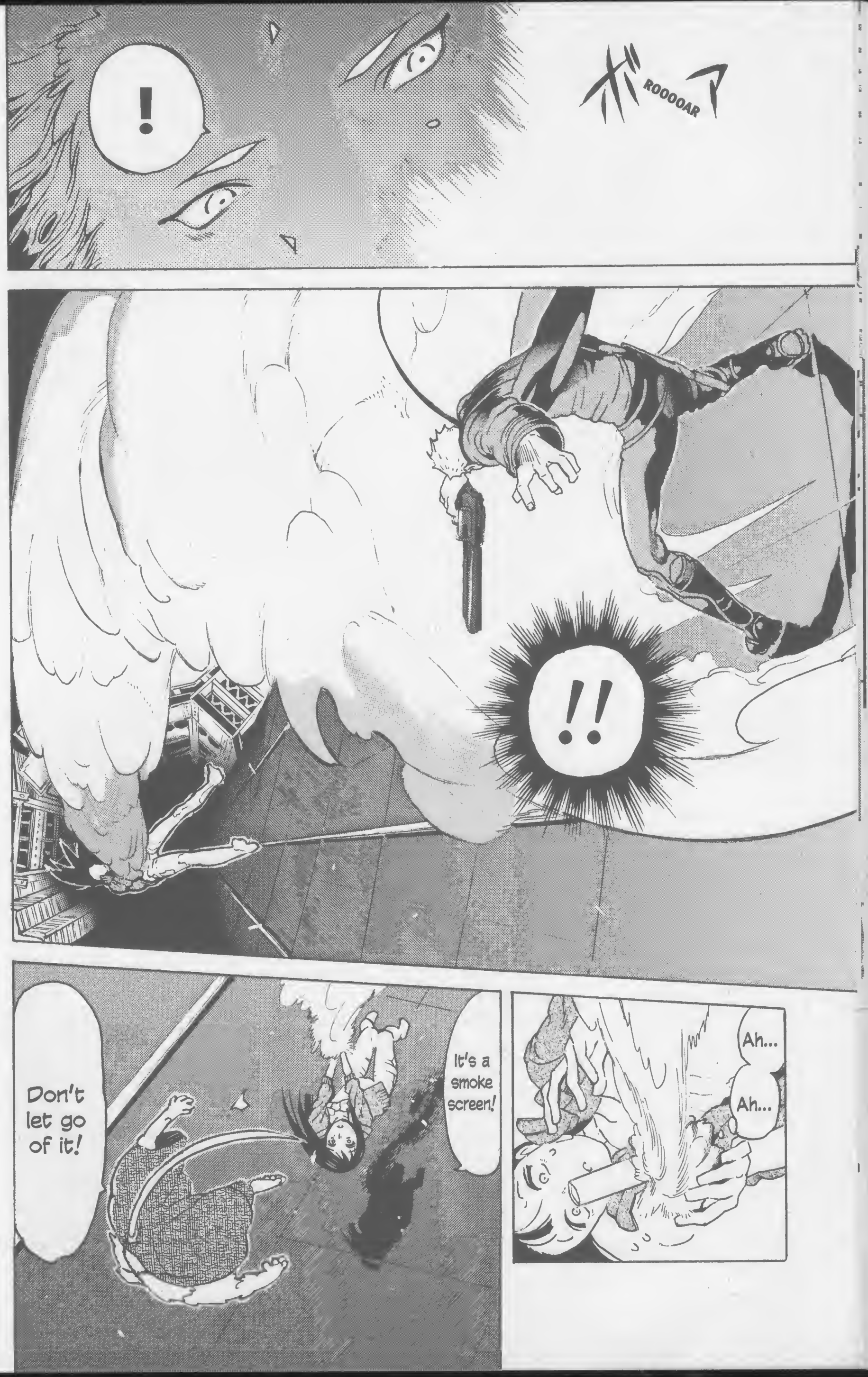

バ
JUMP
Get down!!
FSSH
みし
Huh?
ドコ
BANG

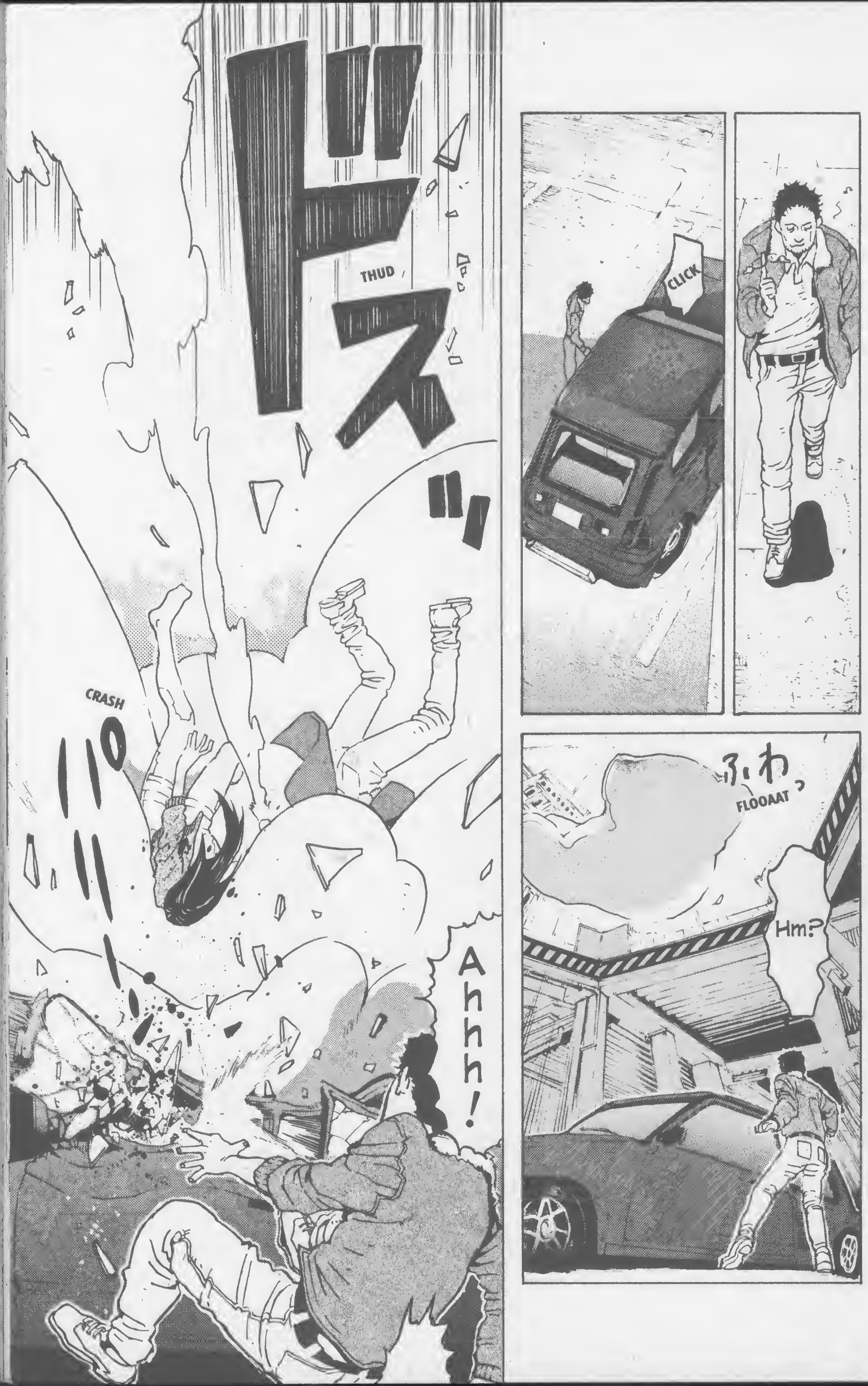

Doctor! Balot! Juuump!
POP
!?
Ahhh!
ズオッ
WHOOOOSH

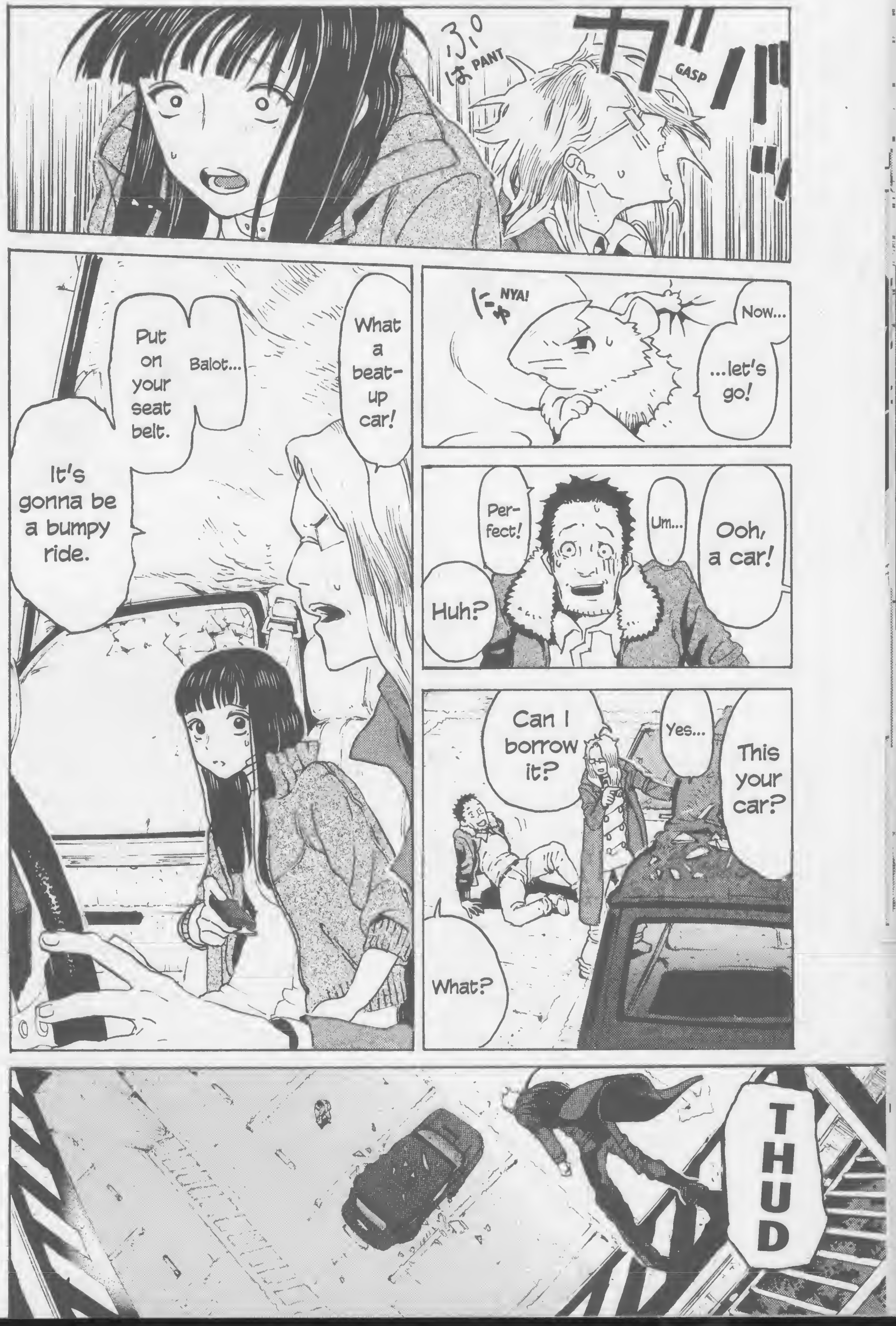

……
ヒュオオオ オオ
FWHOOOOSH
Œ-Œ-Œ-
Œuf-coque !!
カリカリカリカリ
WHIIIIIRR
I had to!
Or else we'd be dead!
ぱっ
PAAA
Let go!
Ahhh!
ヒュゴッオオオ
ROOOOOAR
THUD
THUD
……?

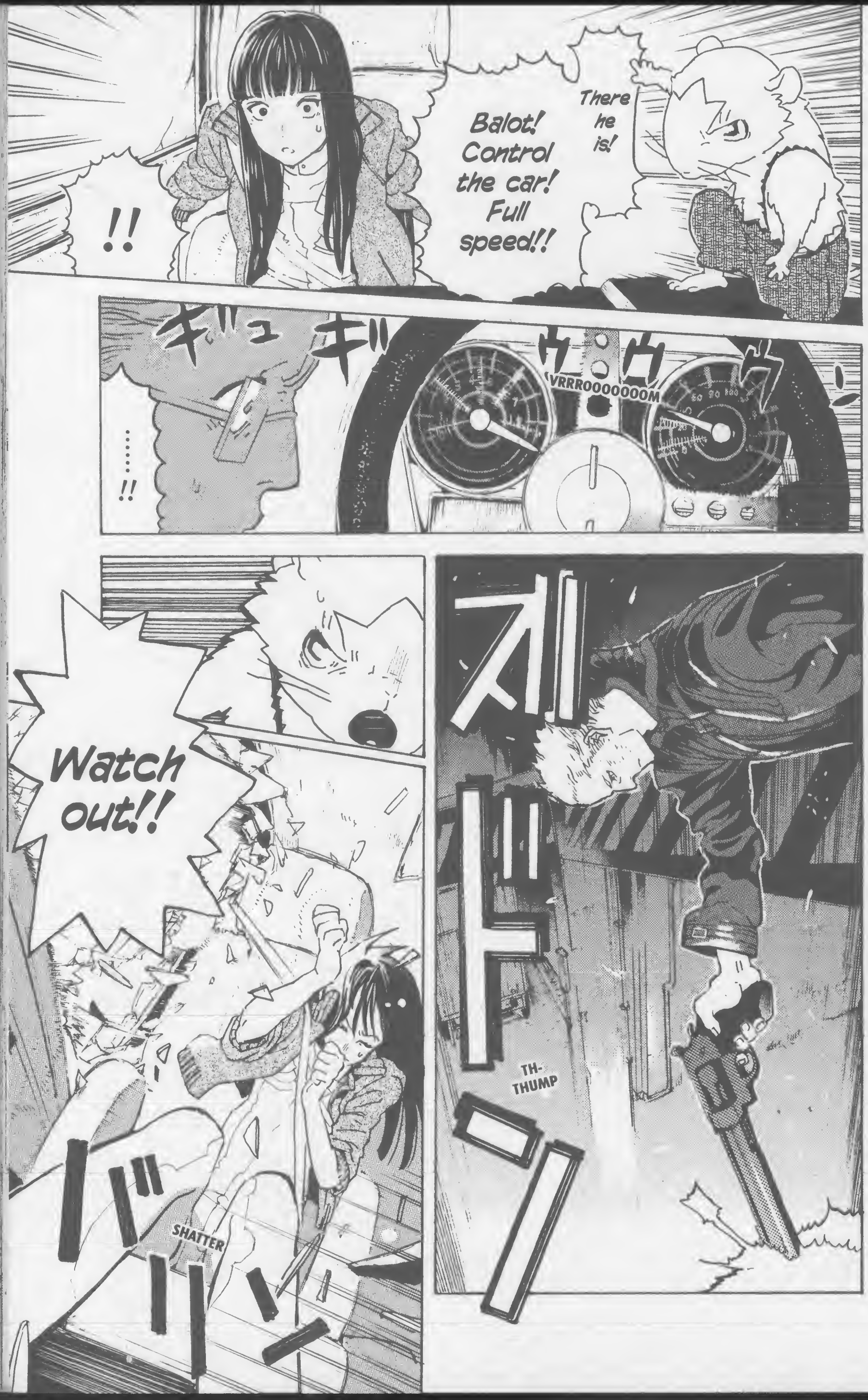

TMP
ドスッ
TMP
ドスッ
TMP
ドスッ

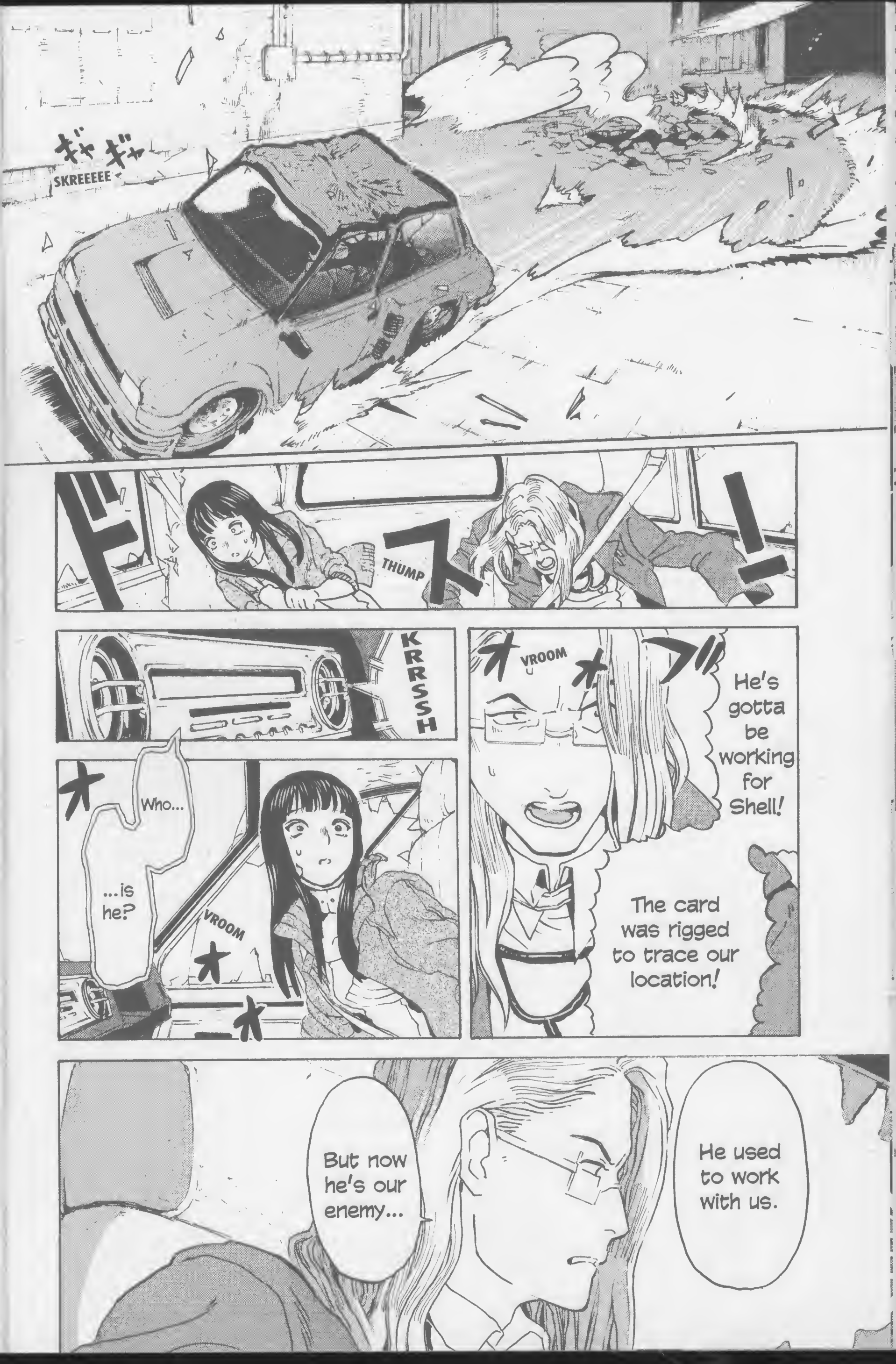

!!
He's running!
!
Here, Balot!

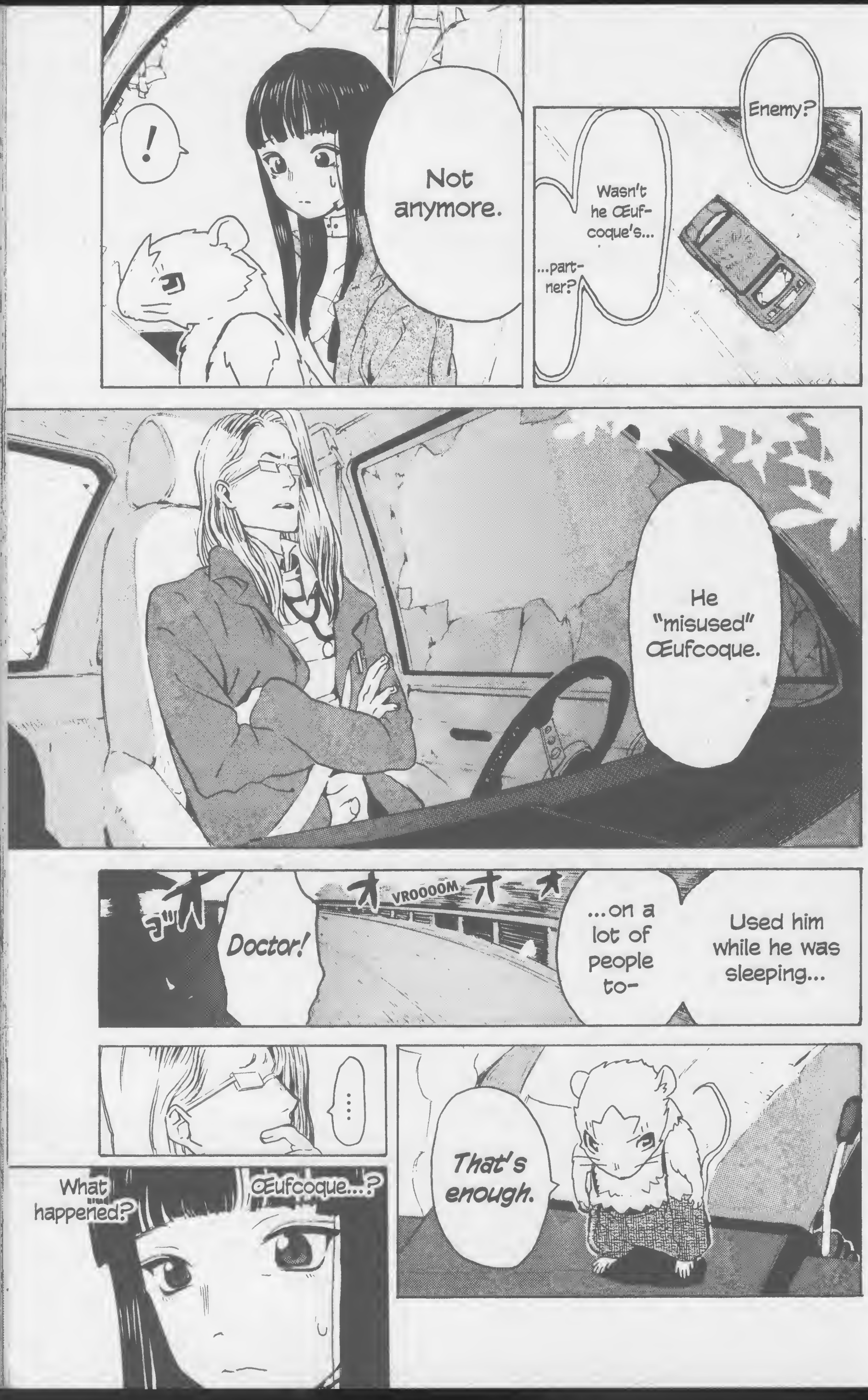

ボァ
ROOOOAR
!
!!
Ah...
Ah...
It's a smoke screen!
Don't let go of it!

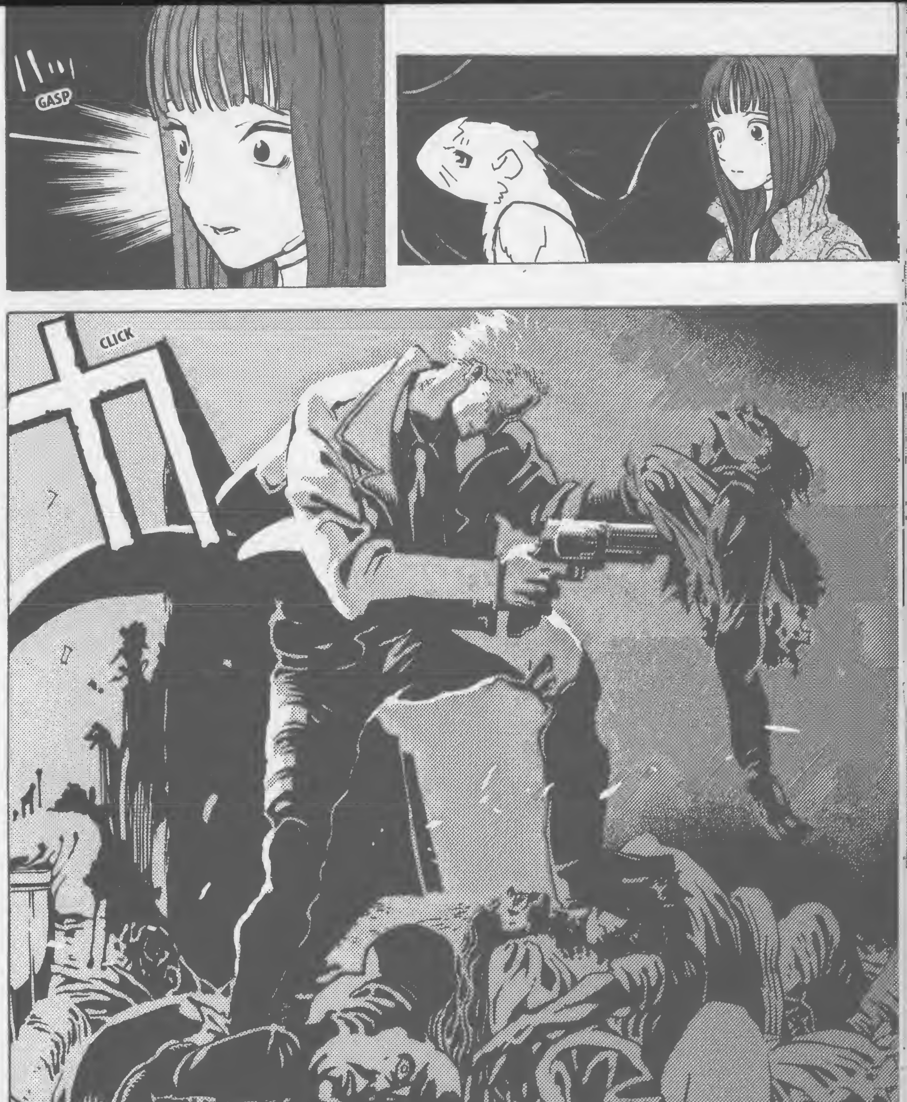

CLICK
ふわ
FLOOAAT
Hm?
ドス!!
THUD
パリ
CRASH
Ahhh!

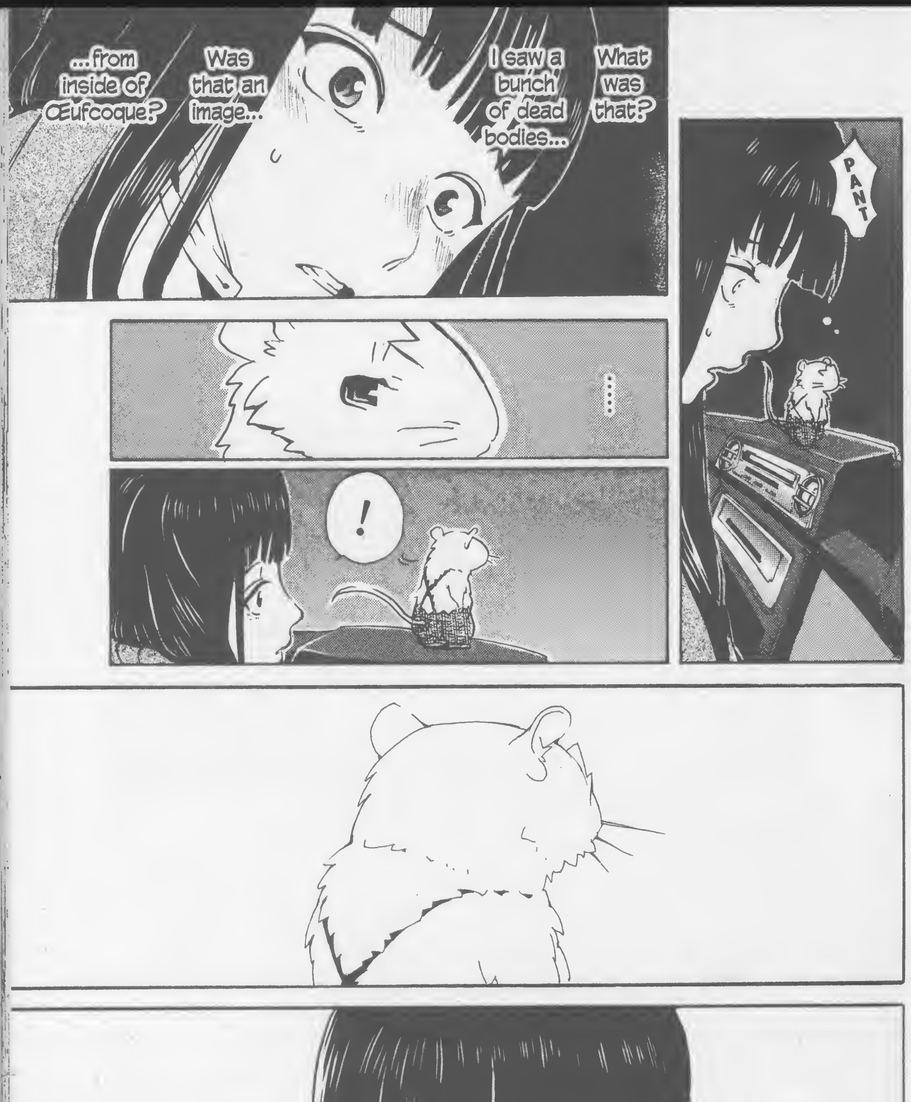

ふ。は PANT
ガバ GASP
NYA! にゃ
Now...
...let's go!
Ooh, a car!
Um...
Perfect!
Huh?
This your car?
Yes...
Can I borrow it?
What?
What a beat-up car!
Balot...
Put on your seat belt.
It's gonna be a bumpy ride.
THUD

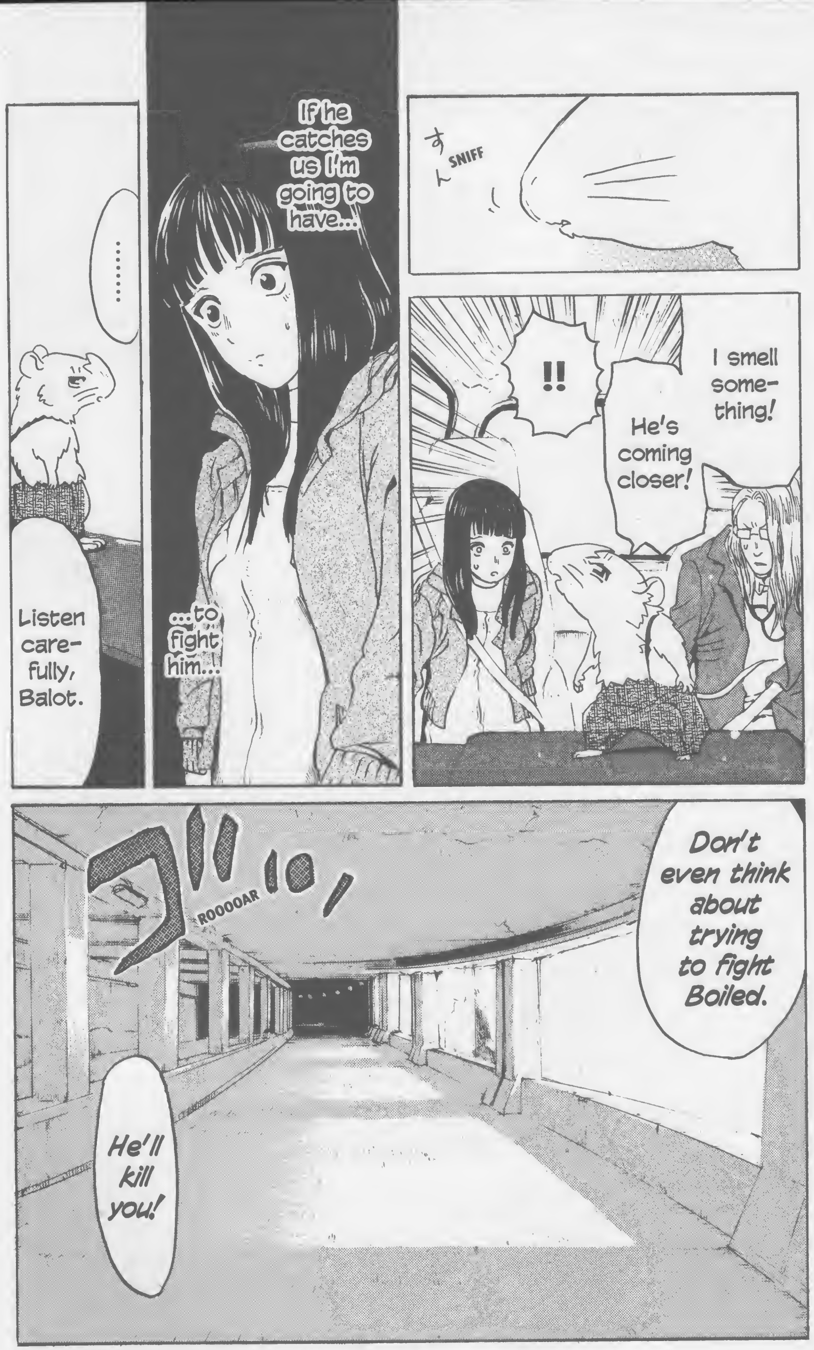

There he is!
Balot! Control the car! Full speed!!
!!
ギュ ギ
ウウウ VRRROOOOOOOM
......!!
オ
ド
TH-THUMP
Watch out!!
ド
SHATTER

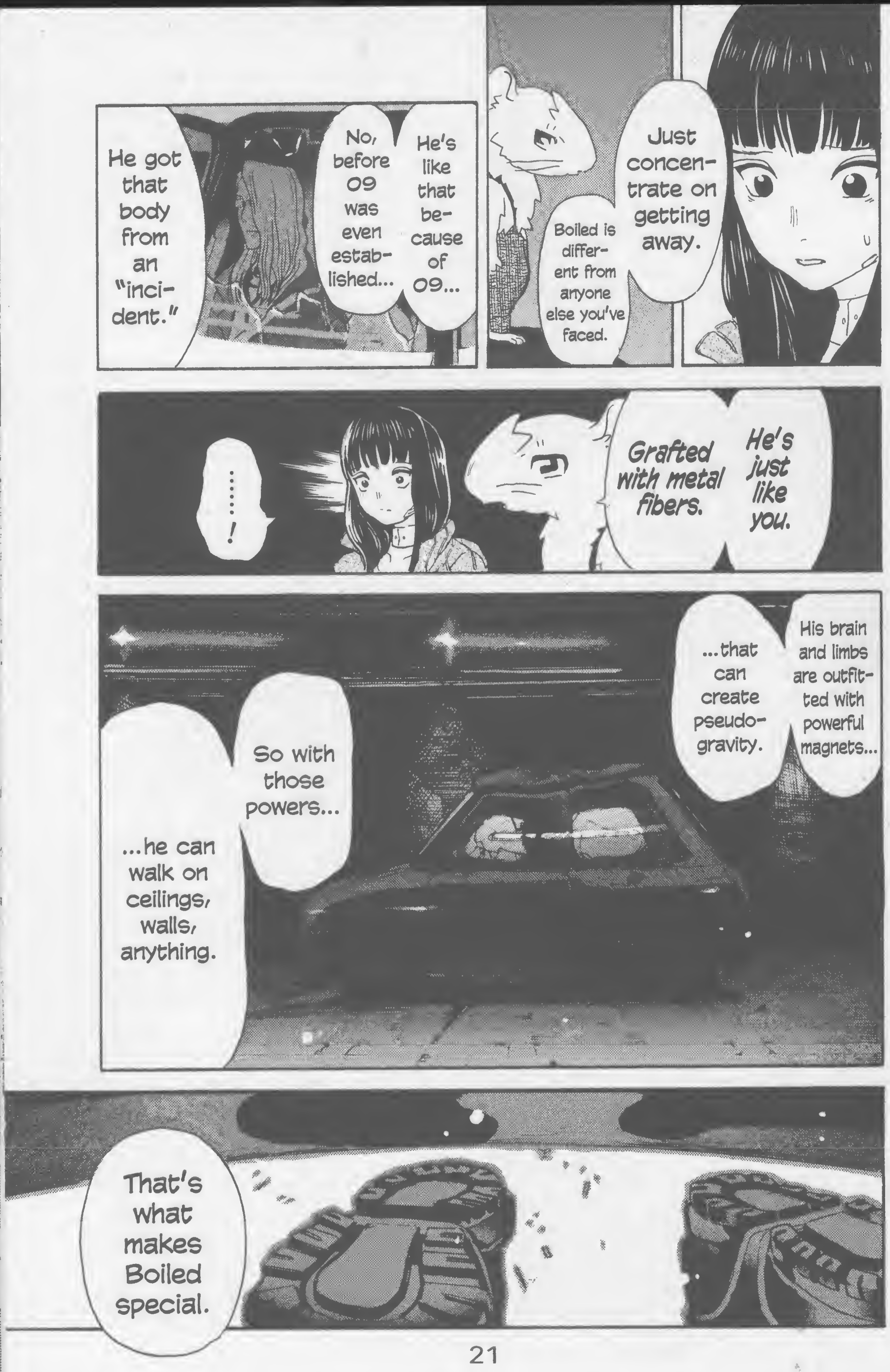

ギャギャ
SKREEEEE
ドスッ
THUMP
KRRSSH
VROOM
He's gotta be working for Shell!
The card was rigged to trace our location!
Who...
...is he?
VROOM
He used to work with us.
But now he's our enemy...

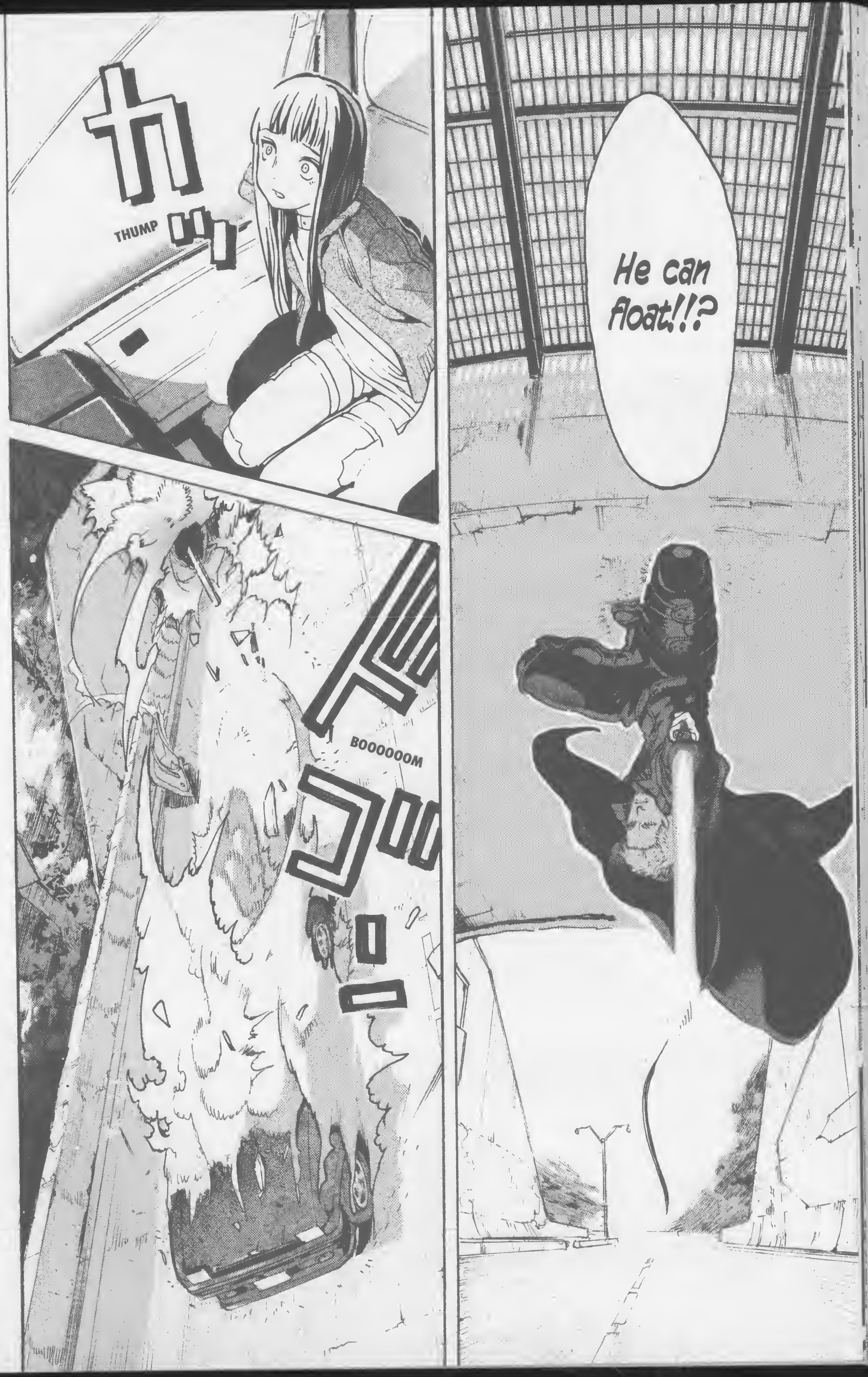

Enemy?
Wasn't he Œufcoque's...
...partner?
Not anymore.
!
He "misused" Œufcoque.
Used him while he was sleeping...
...on a lot of people to-
VROOOOM
Doctor!
....
That's enough.
Œufcoque...?
What happened?

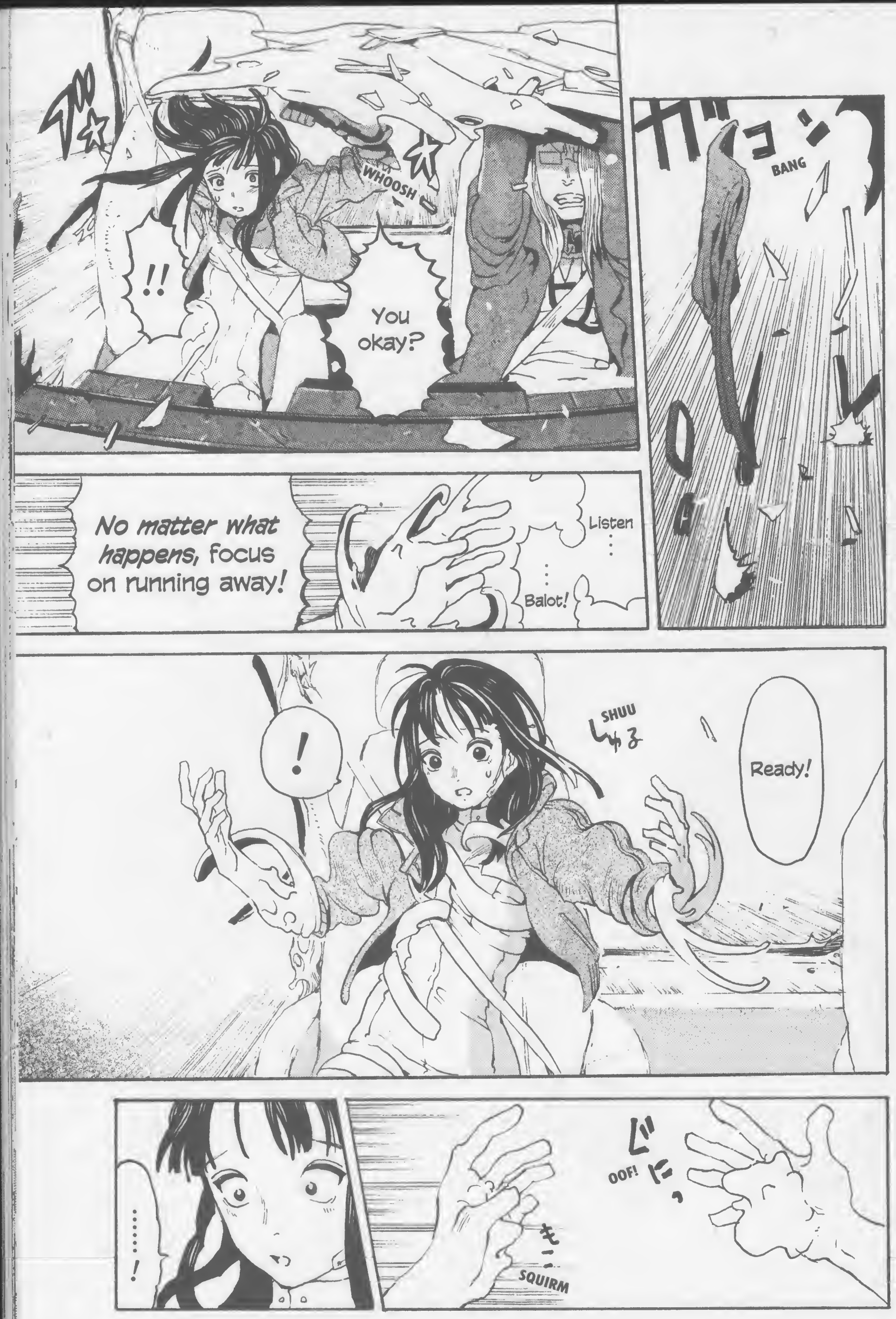

GASP
CLICK
キュル
SKREEE
キュル
!!

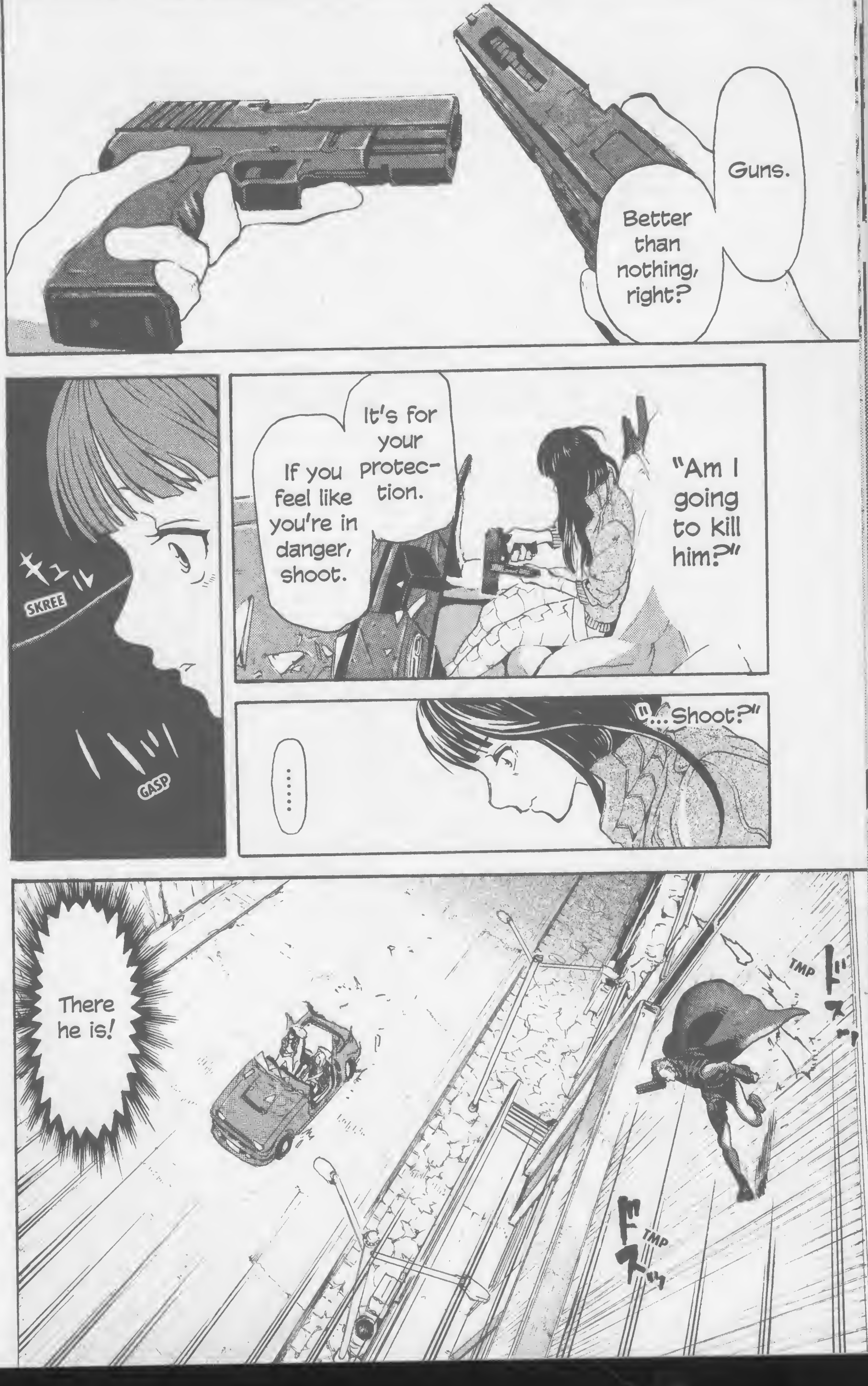

What was that?
I saw a bunch of dead bodies...
Was that an image...
...from inside of Œufcoque?
PANT
……
!
きゅ
TH-THUMP

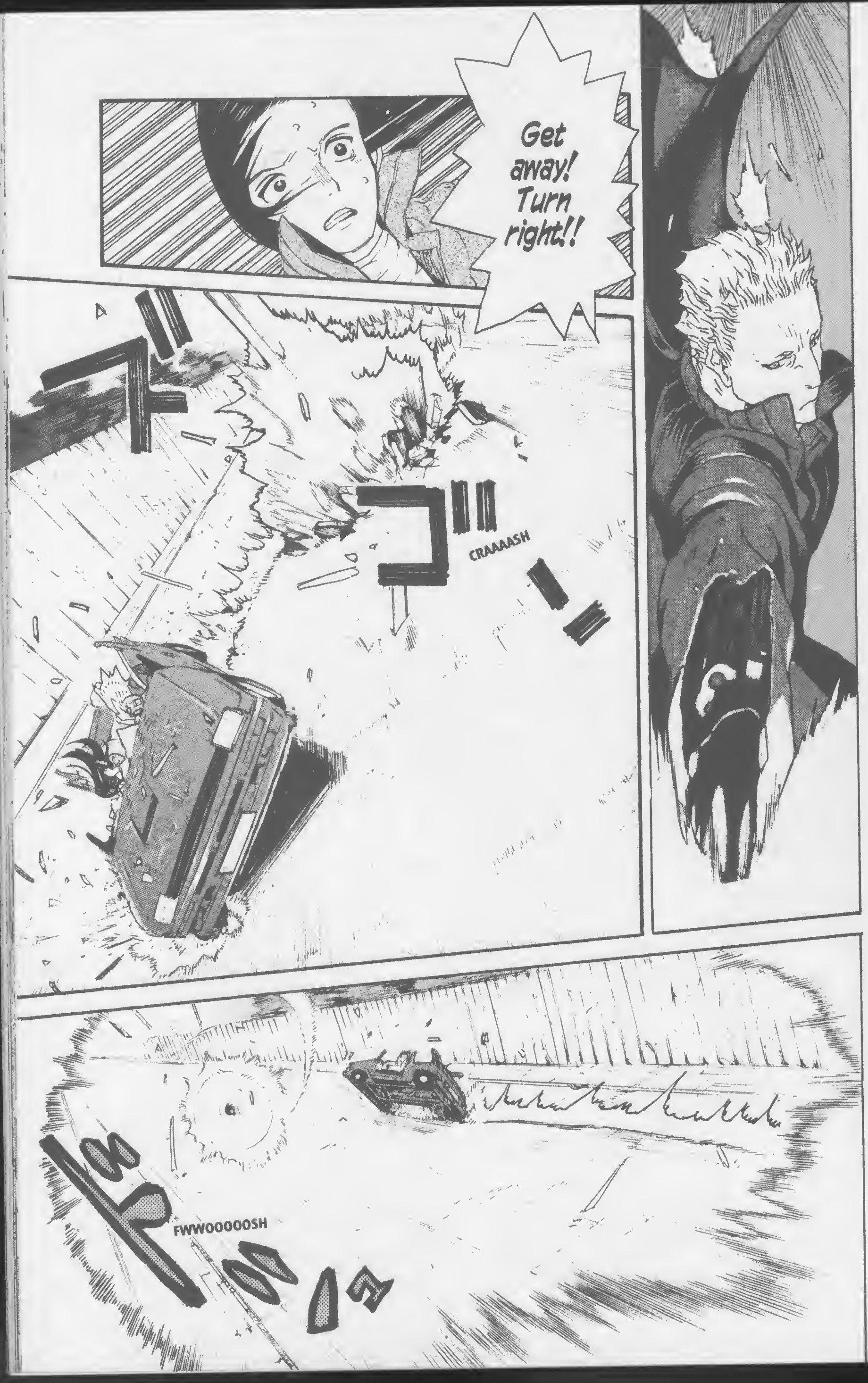

すん
SNIFF
I smell something!
!!
He's coming closer!
If he catches us I'm going to have...
...to fight him...
......
Listen carefully, Balot.
Don't even think about trying to fight Boiled.
ROOOOAR
He'll kill you!

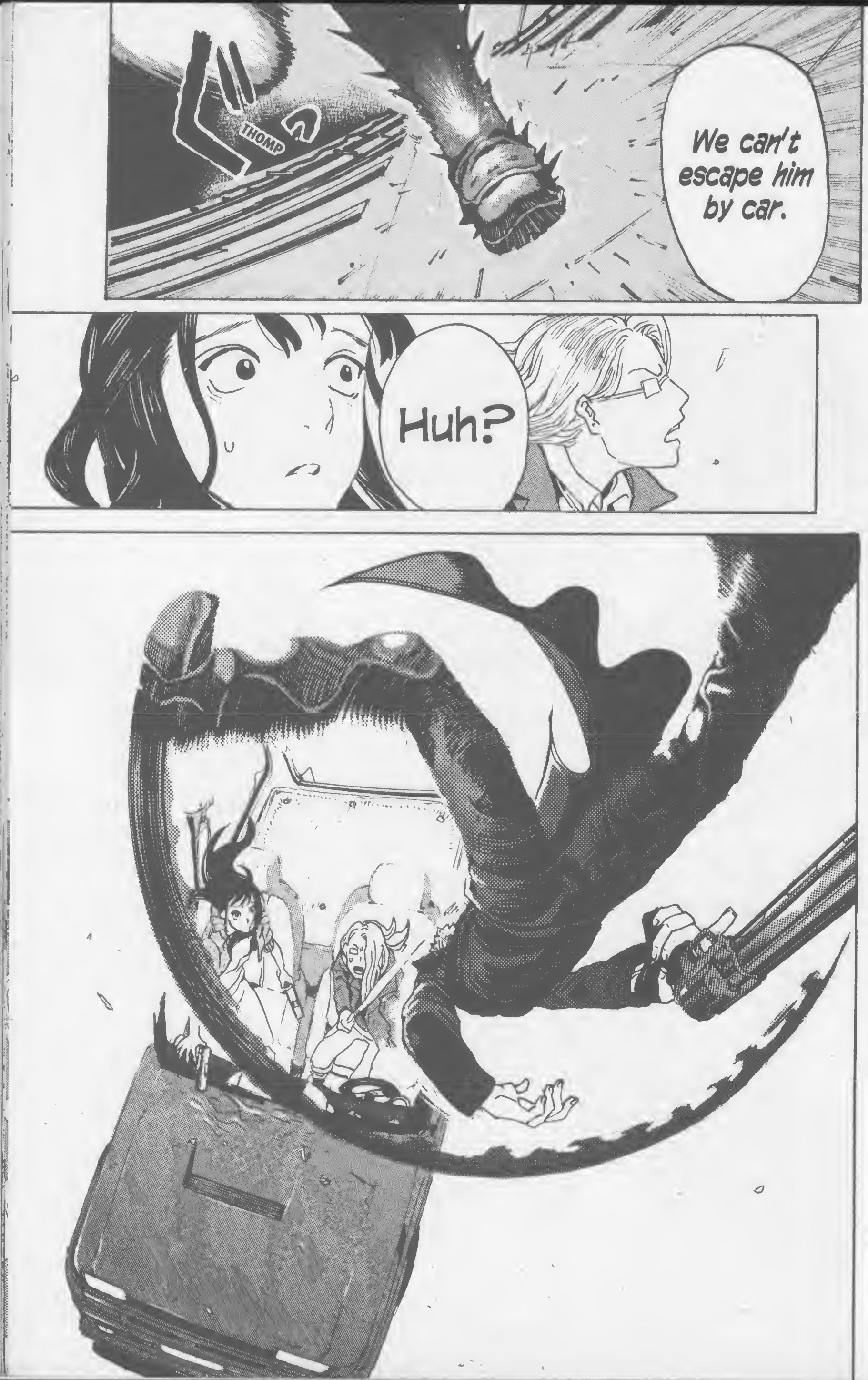

Just concentrate on getting away.
Boiled is different from anyone else you've faced.
He's like that because of 09...
No, before 09 was even established...
He got that body from an "incident."
He's just like you.
Grafted with metal fibers.
......!
His brain and limbs are outfitted with powerful magnets...
...that can create pseudo-gravity.
So with those powers...
...he can walk on ceilings, walls, anything.
That's what makes Boiled special.

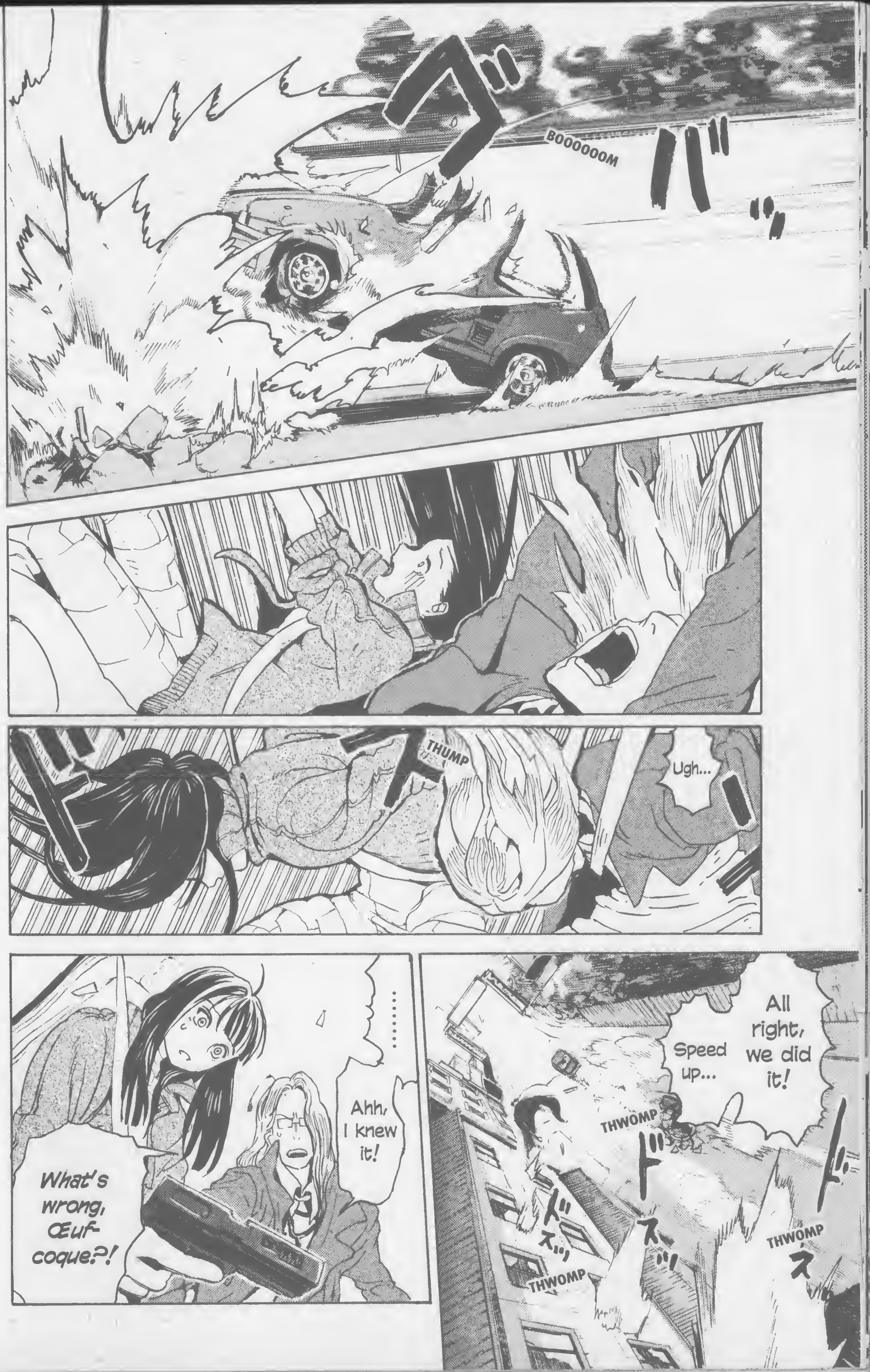

He can float!!?
THUMP
BOOOOOOM

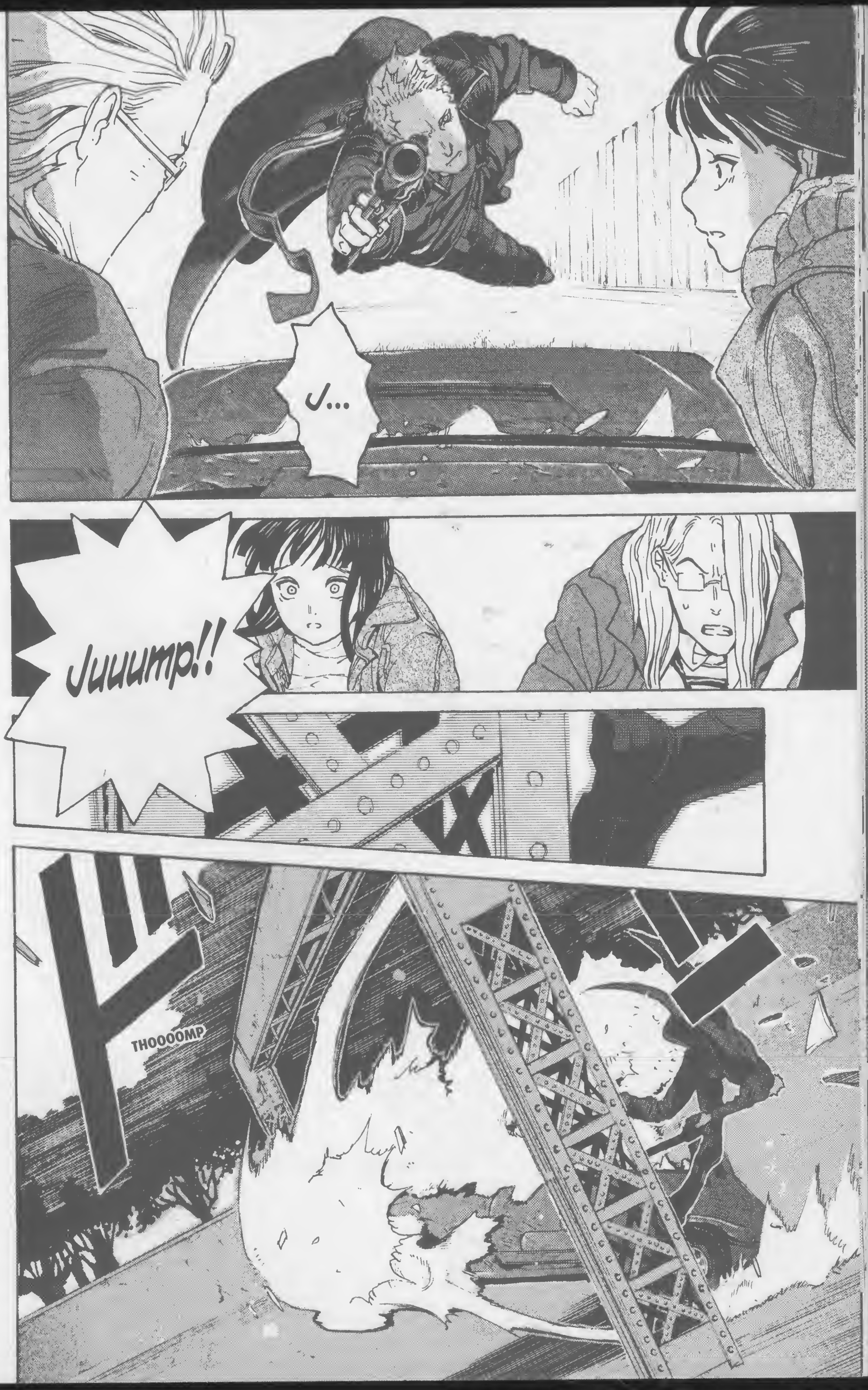

BANG
WHOOSH
!!
You okay?
Listen…
…Balot!
No matter what happens, focus on running away!
SHUU
Ready!
!
OOF!
SQUIRM
……!

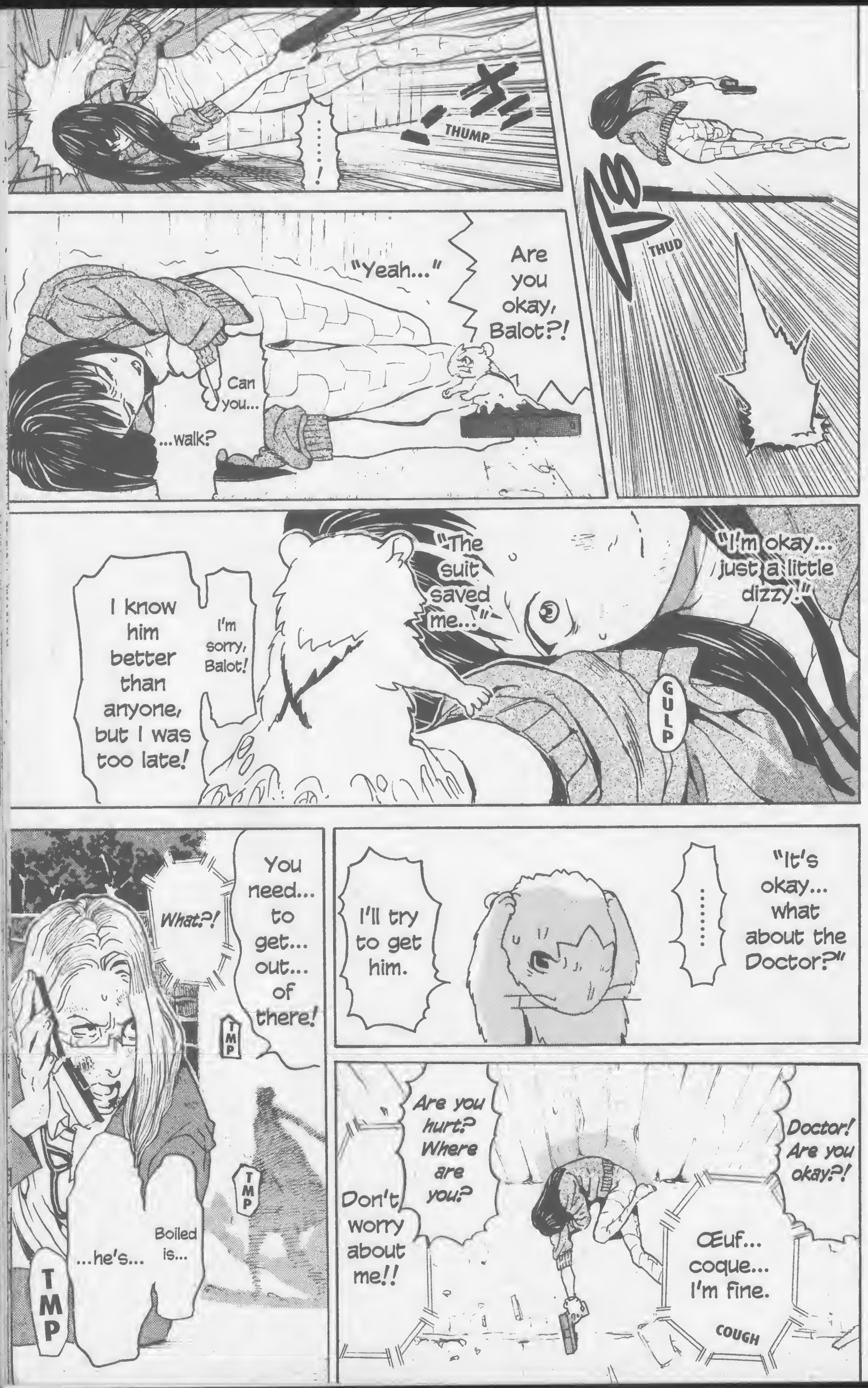

Guns.
Better than nothing, right?
It's for your protection.
If you feel like you're in danger, shoot.
"Am I going to kill him?"
キュル
SKREE
GASP
"...Shoot?"
……
TMP
There he is!
TMP

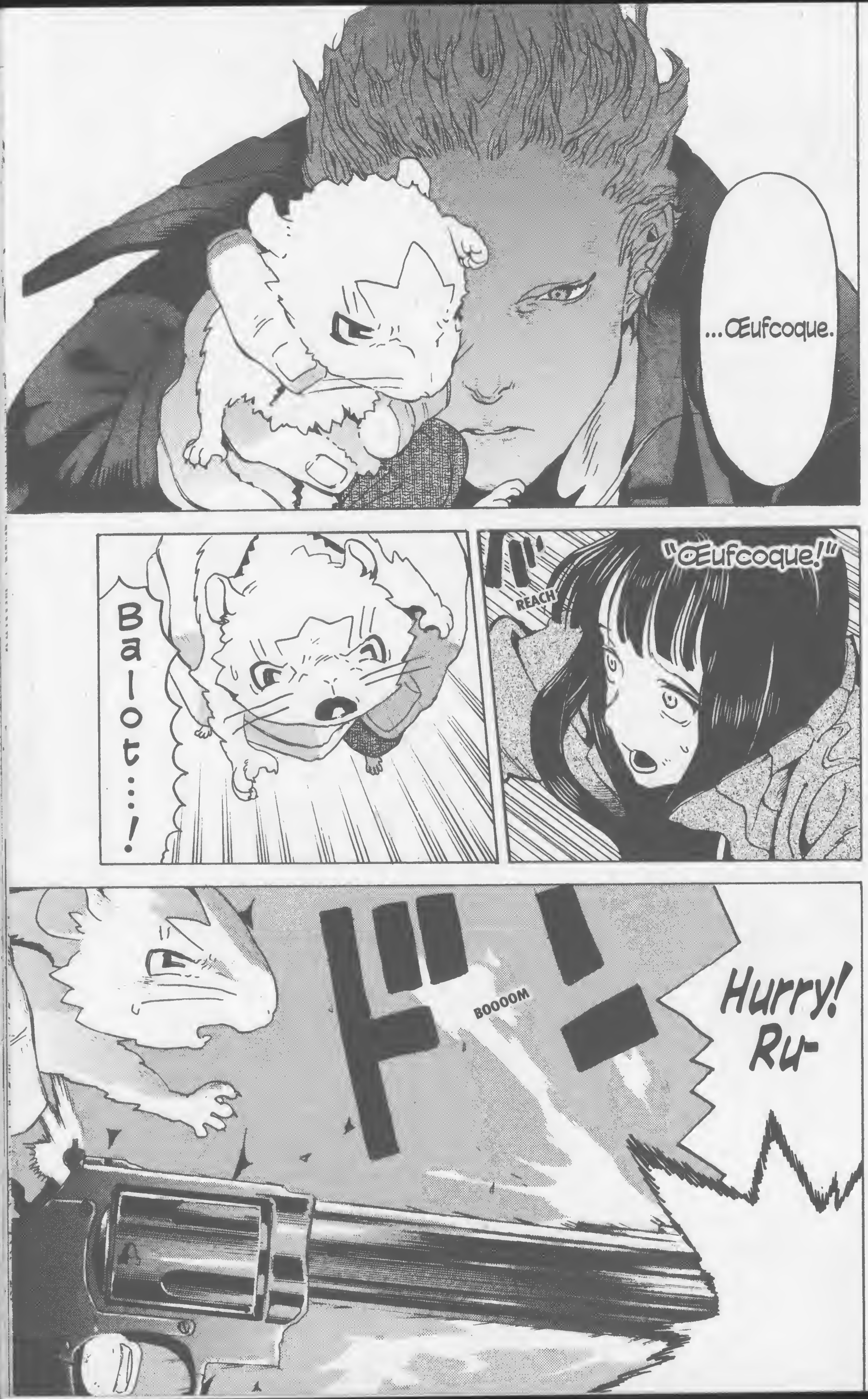

Get away! Turn right!!
CRAAAASH
FWWOOOOOSH

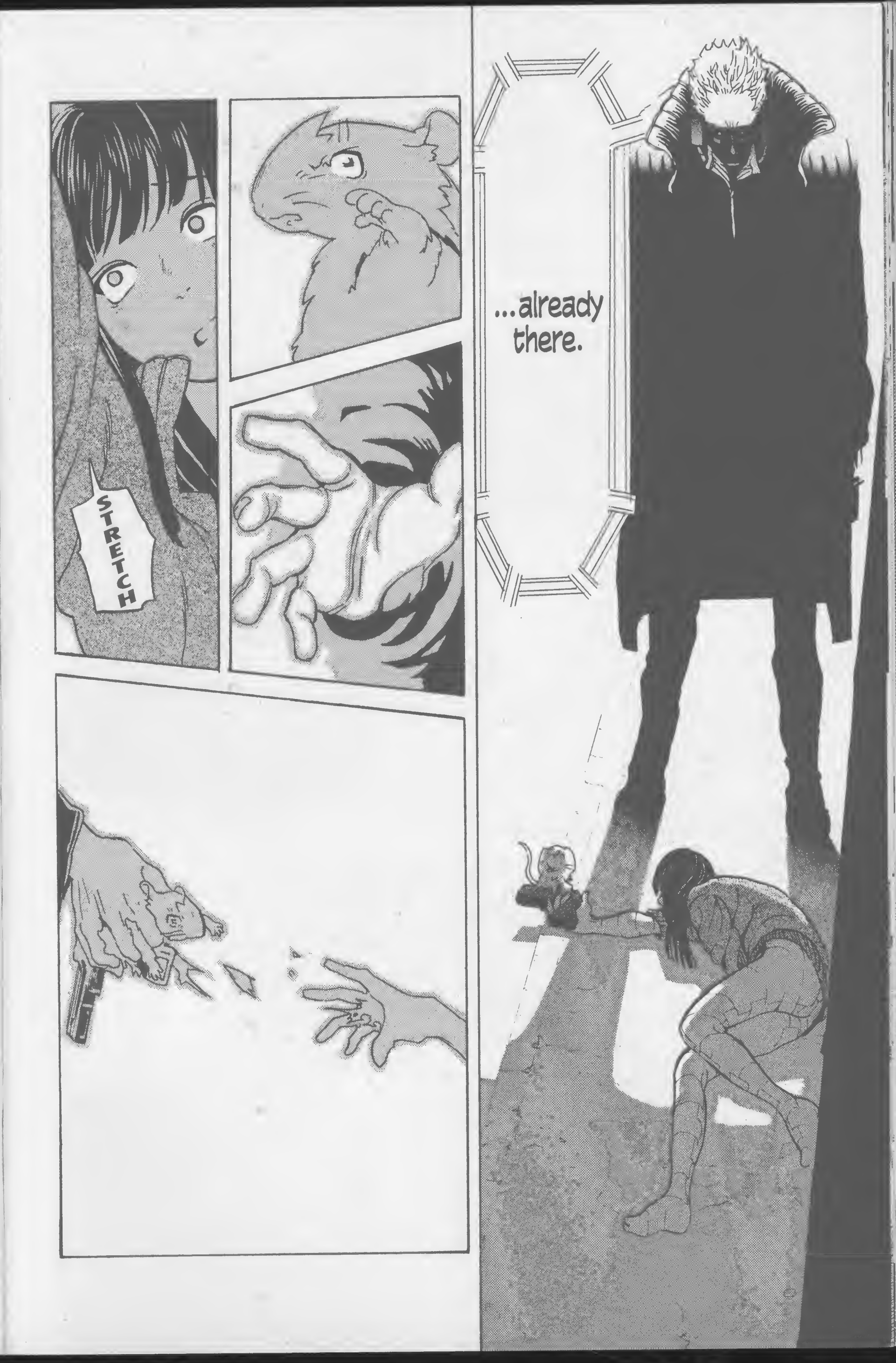

THOMP
We can't escape him by car.
Huh?

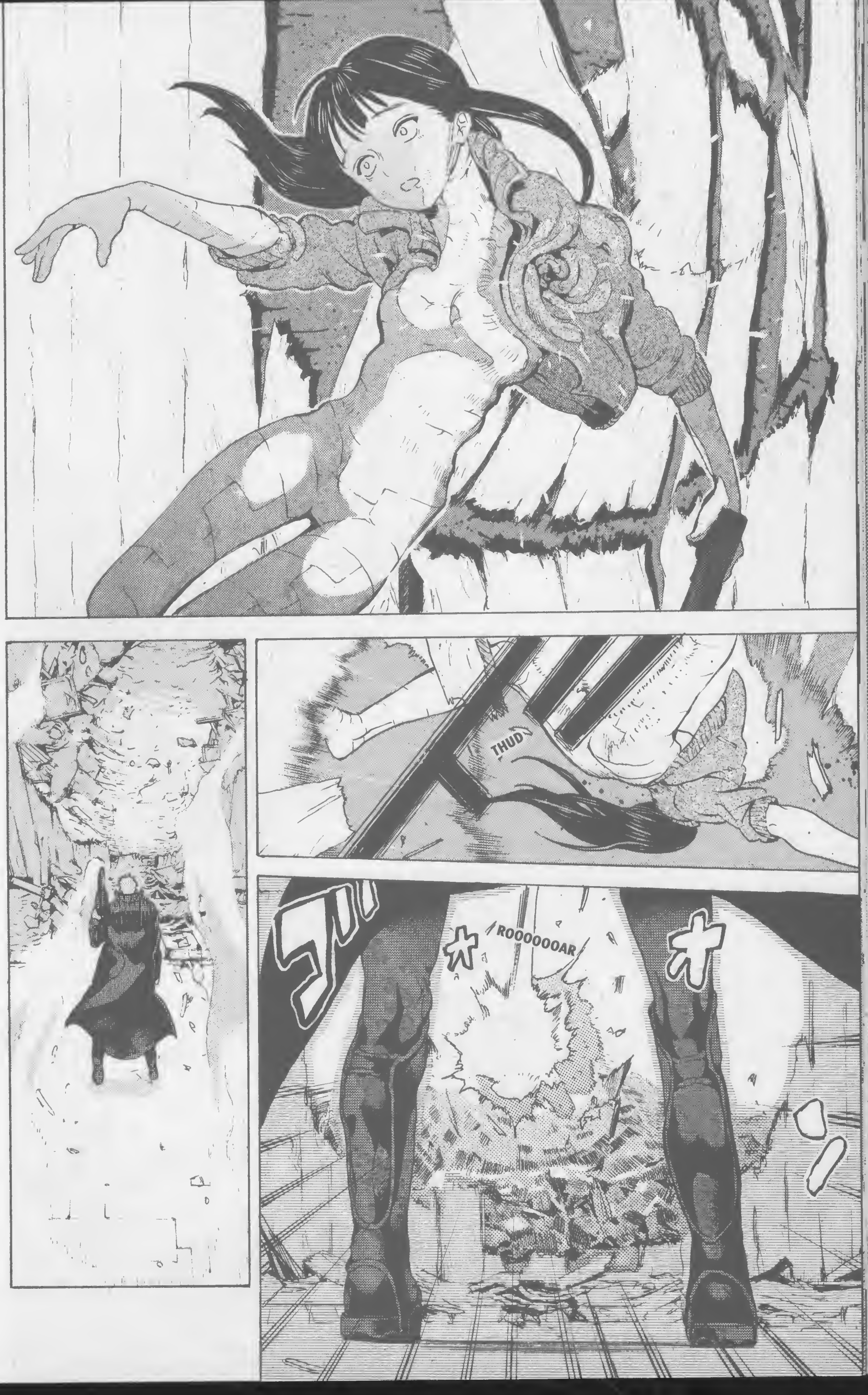

BOOOOOOM
THUMP
Ugh...
All right, we did it!
Speed up...
THWOMP
THWOMP
THWOMP
......
Ahh, I knew it!
What's wrong, Œuf-coque?!

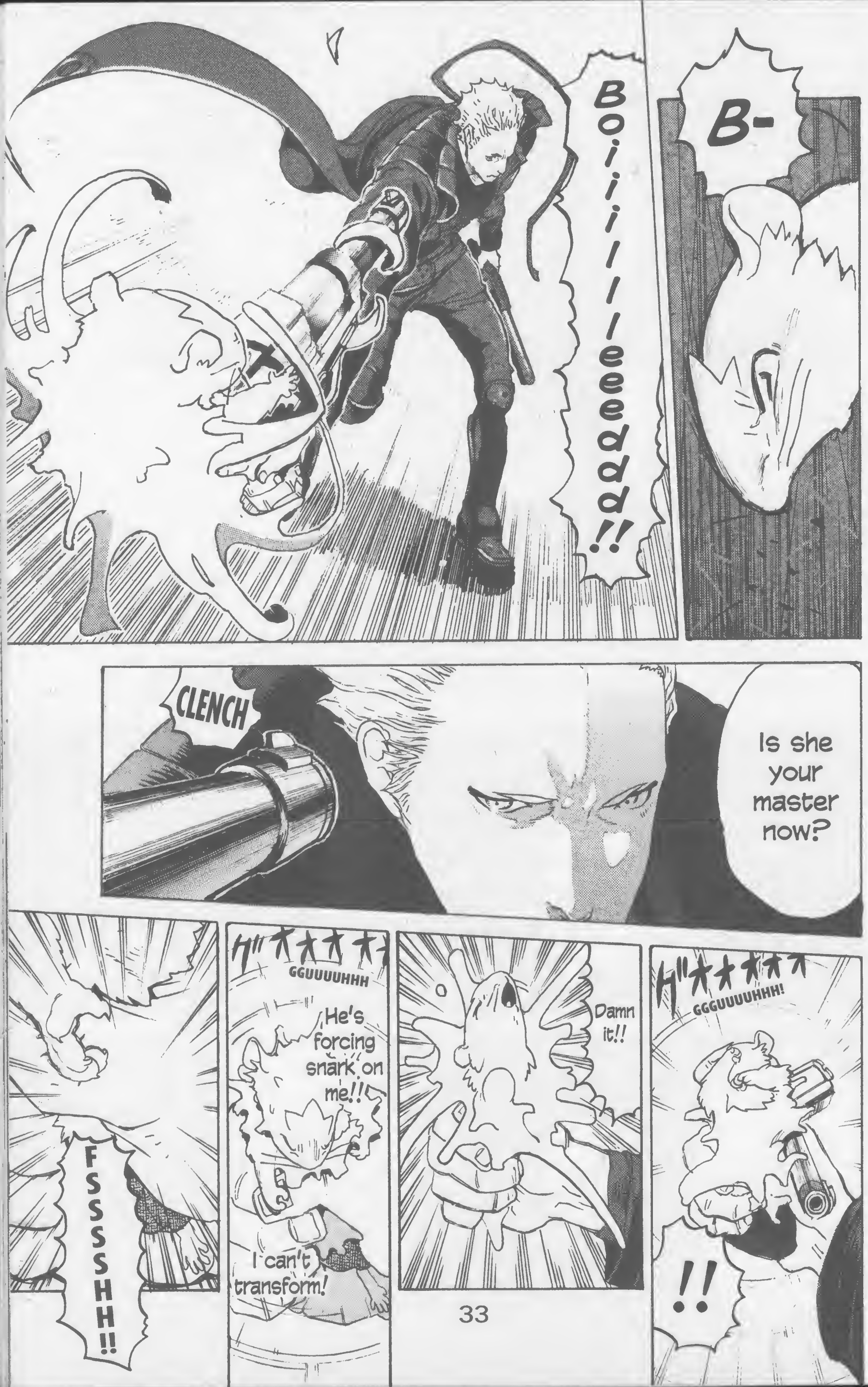

J...
Juuump!!
THOOOOMP

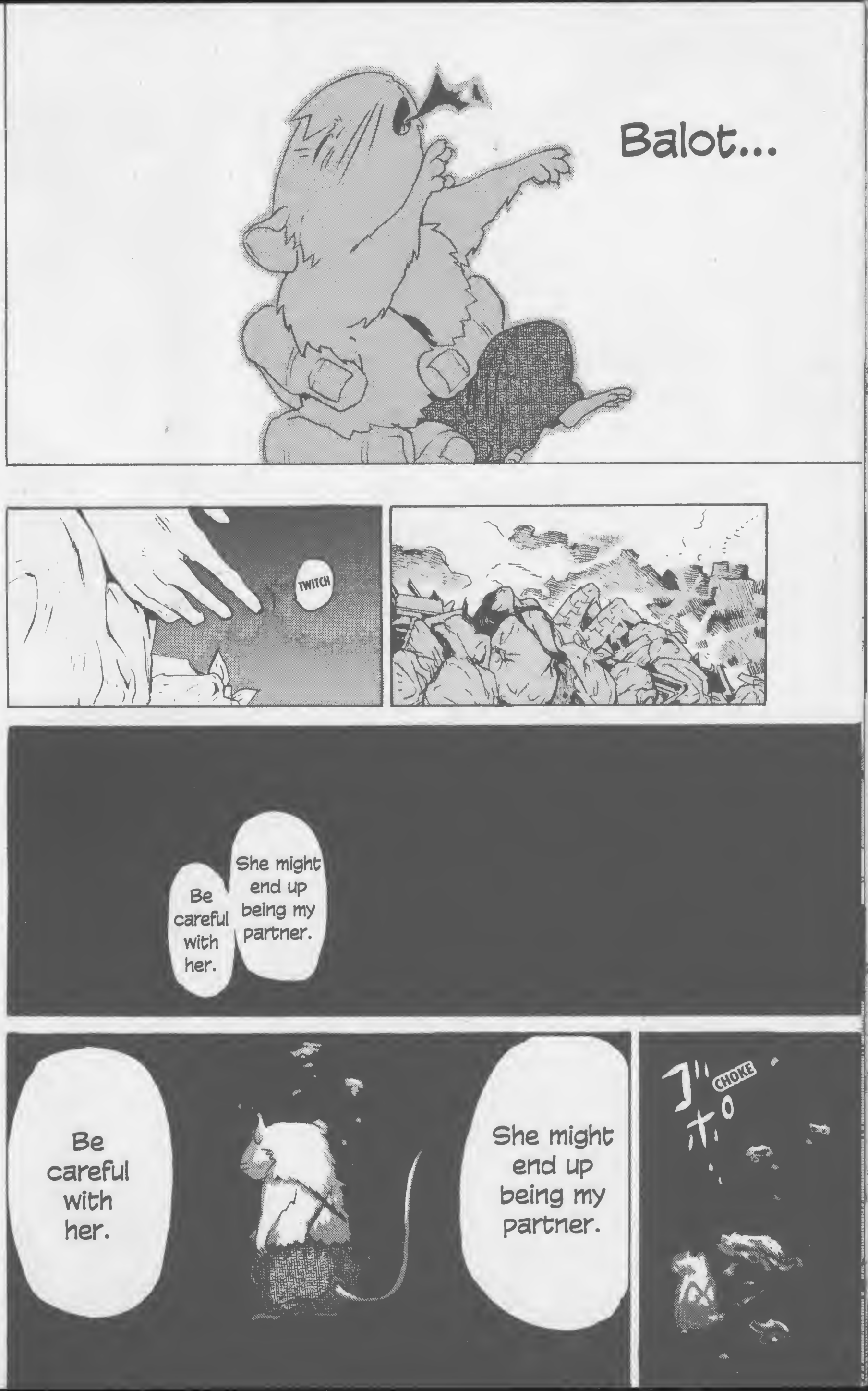

THUD
THUMP
......!
Are you okay, Balot?!
"Yeah..."
Can you...
...walk?
"I'm okay... just a little dizzy."
"The suit saved me..."
GULP
I'm sorry, Balot!
I know him better than anyone, but I was too late!
"It's okay... what about the Doctor?"
....
I'll try to get him.
Doctor! Are you okay?!
Œuf... coque... I'm fine.
COUGH
Are you hurt? Where are you?
Don't worry about me!!
You need... to get... out... of there!
What?!
TMP
TMP
Boiled is...
...he's...
TMP

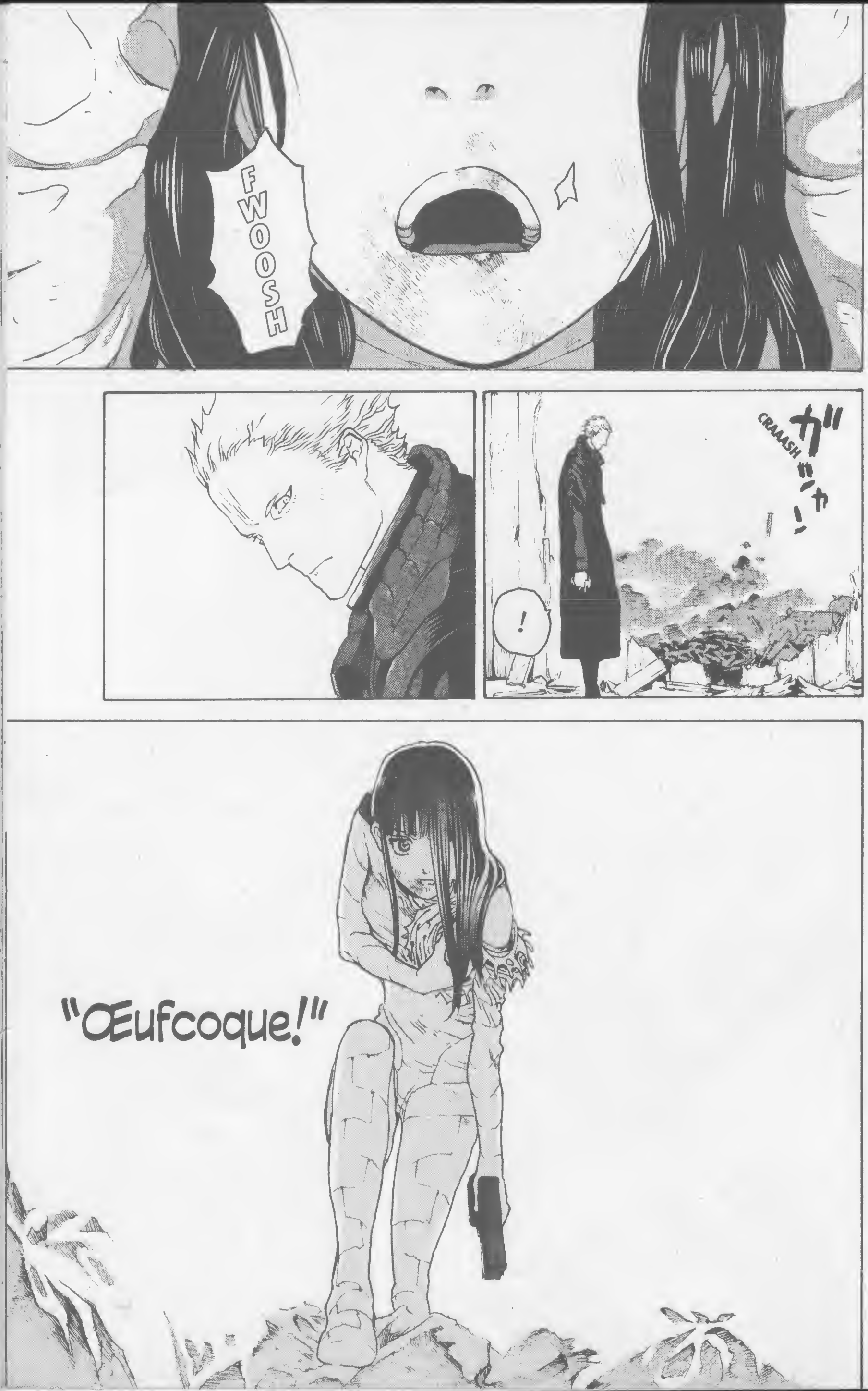

...Œufcoque.
Balot...!
REACH
"Œufcoque!"
ドドン
BOOOOM
Hurry! Ru-

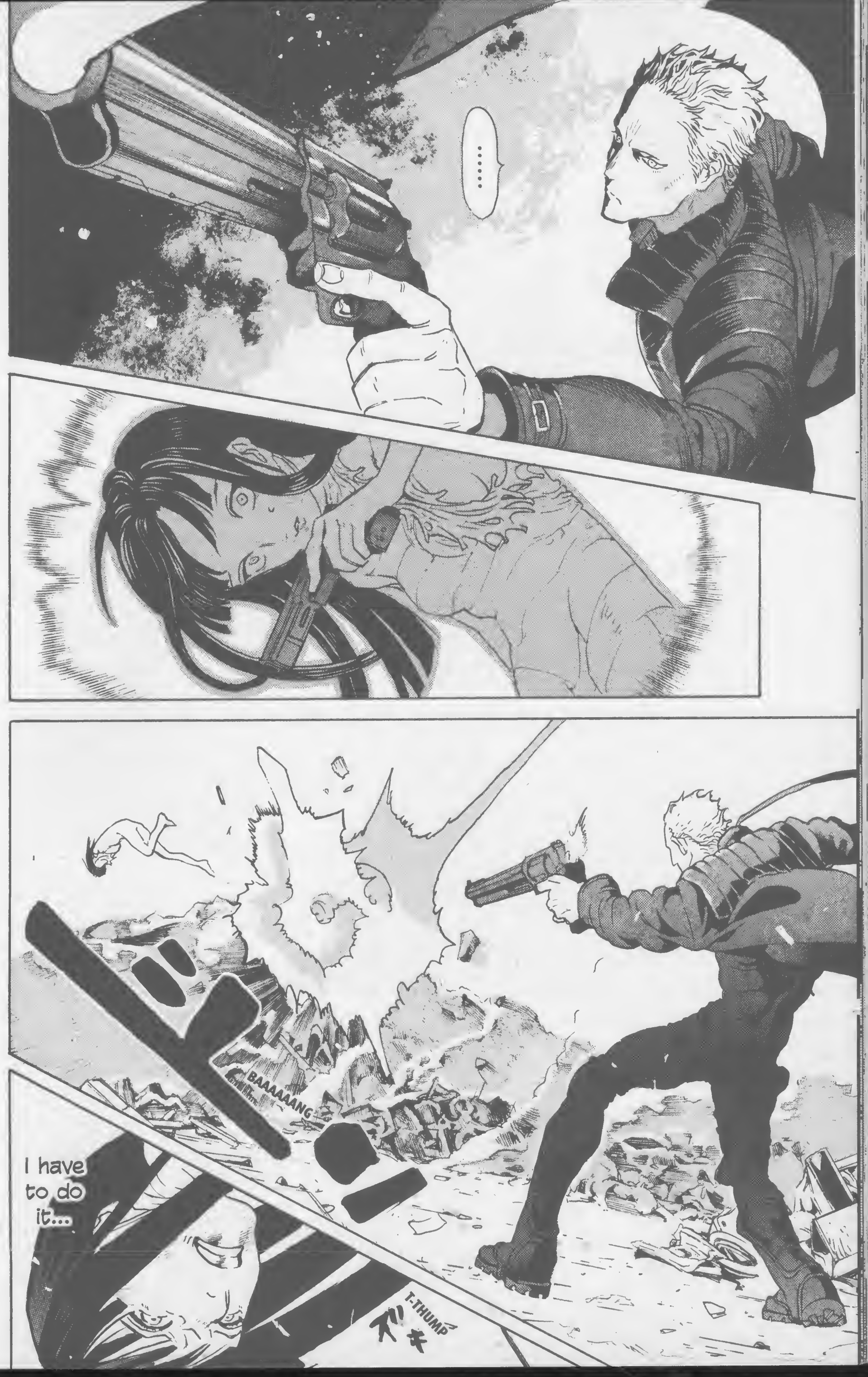

STRETCH
...already there.

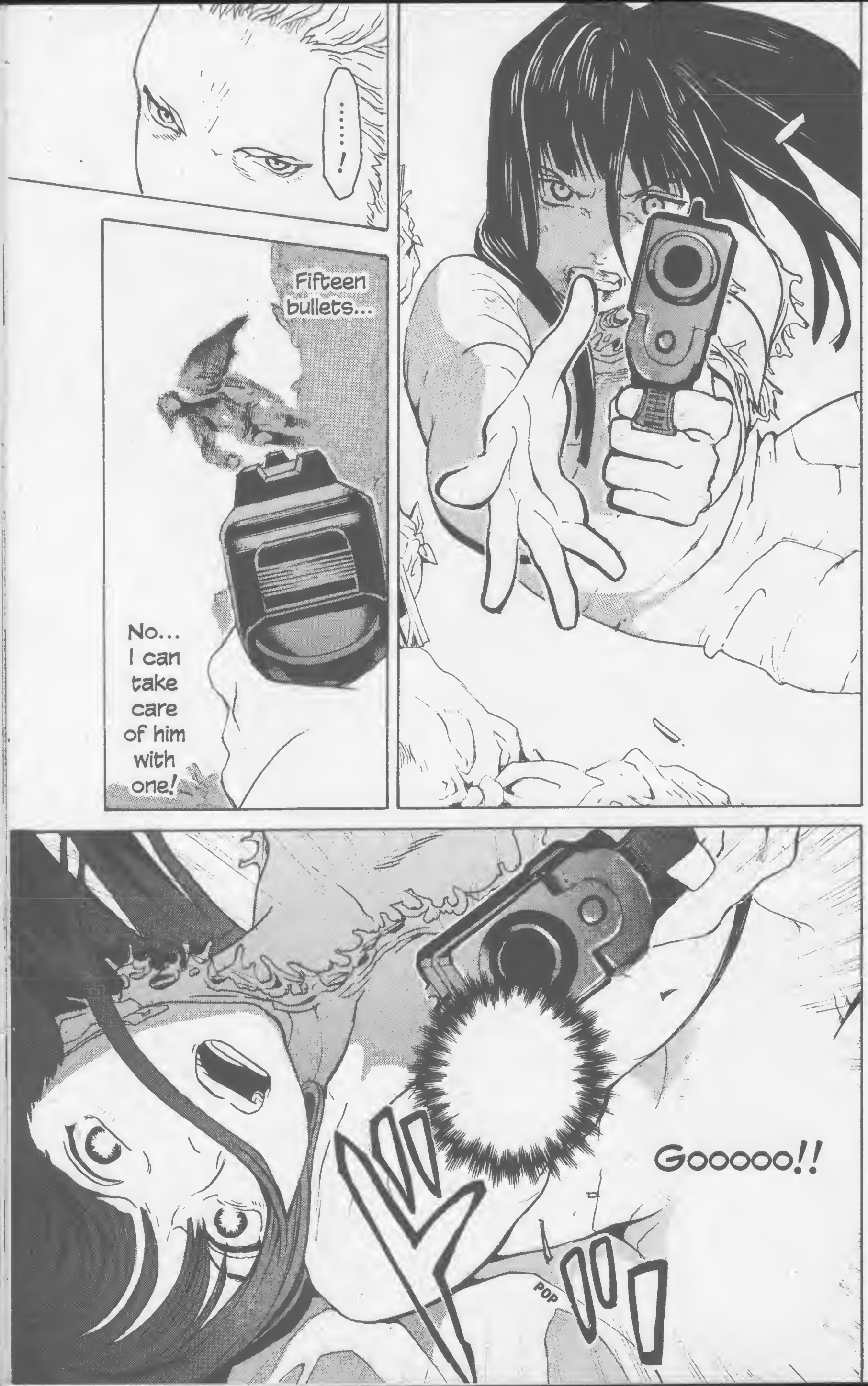

THUD
ROOOOOOAR

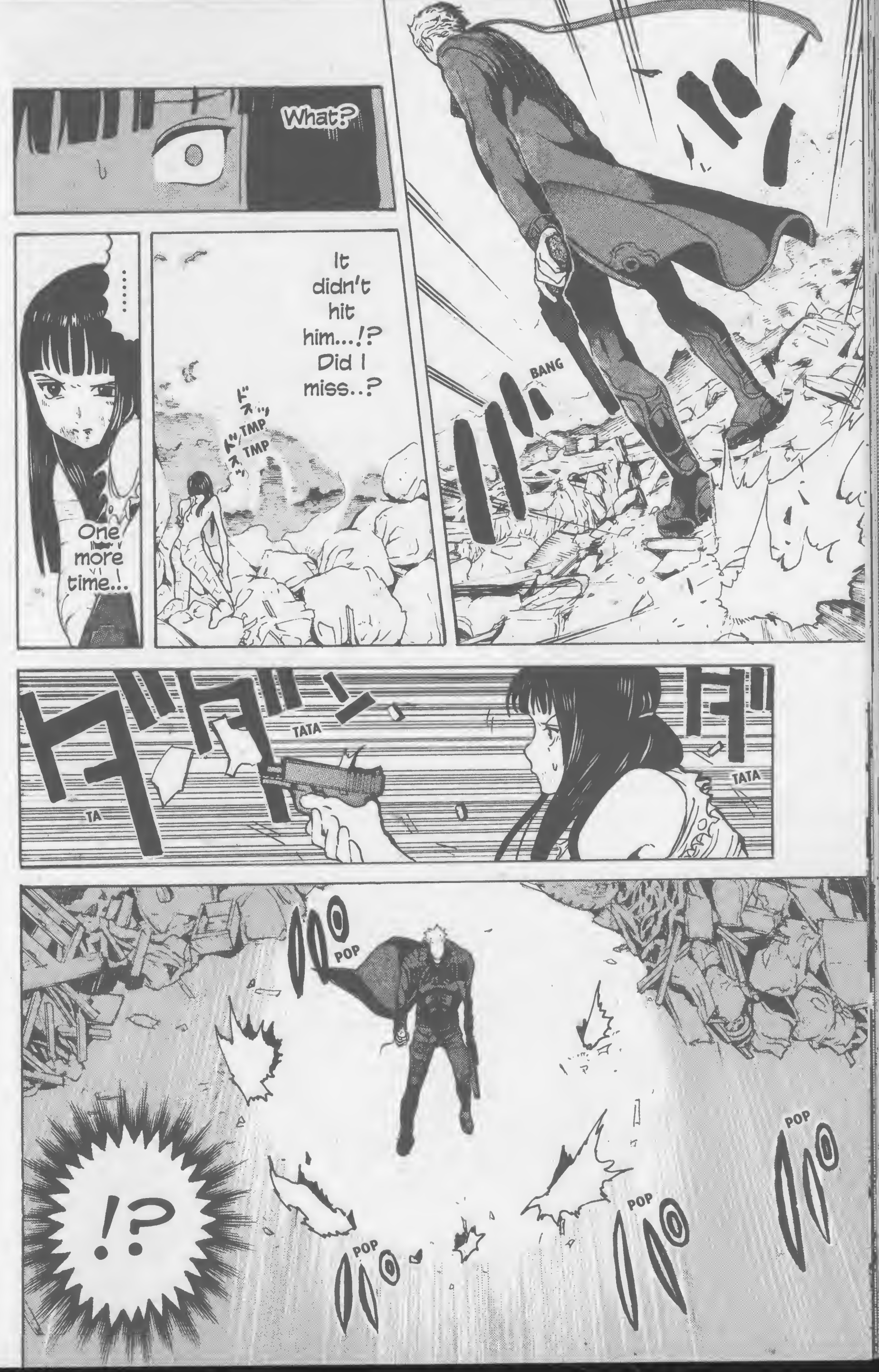

B-
Boiiiiilllleeeddd!!
Is she your master now?
CLENCH
GGGUUUUHHH!
!!
Damn it!!
GGUUUUHHH
He's forcing snark on me!!
I can't transform!
FSSSHH!!

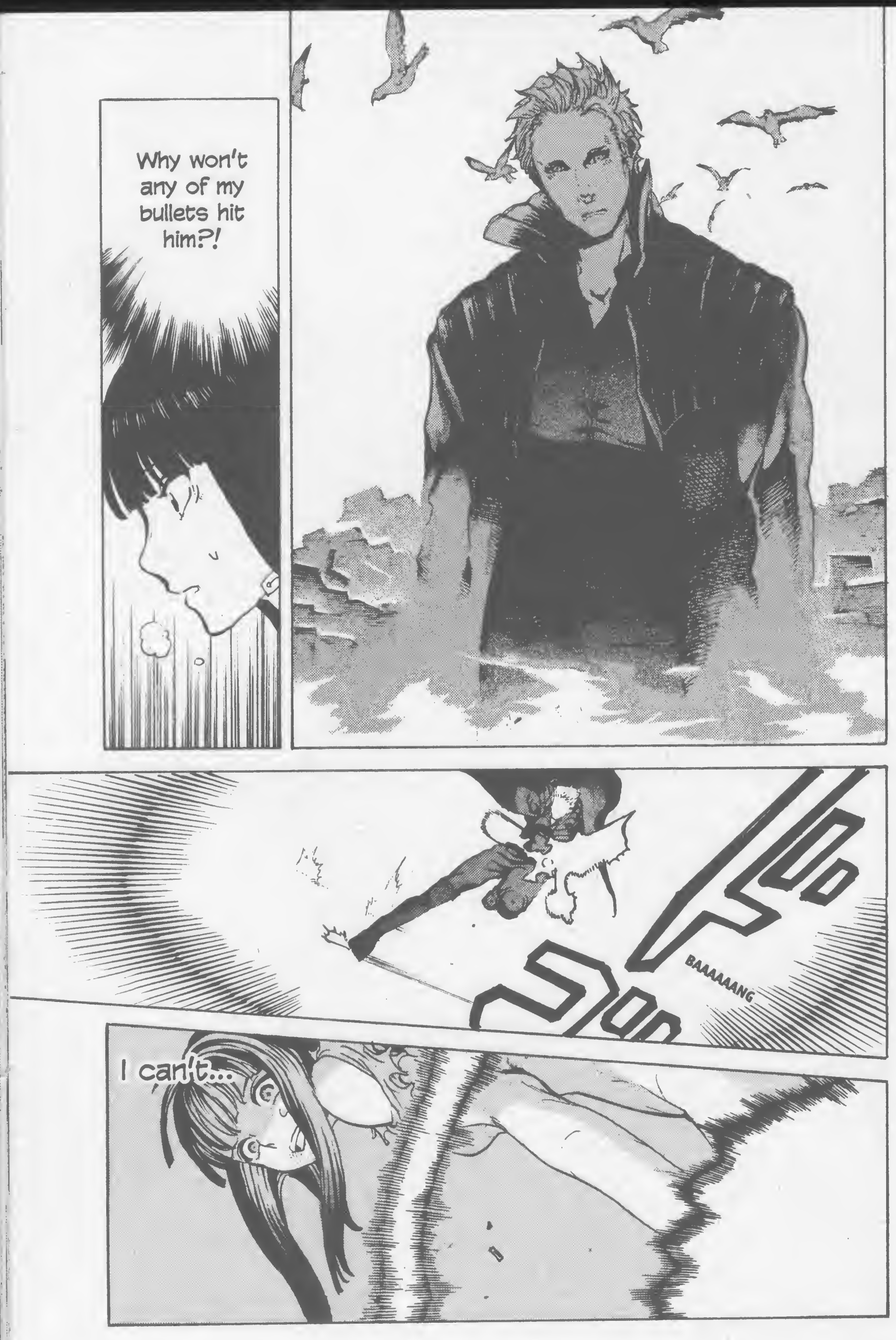

Balot...
TWITCH
She might end up being my partner.
Be careful with her.
ゴポ
CHOKE
She might end up being my partner.
Be careful with her.

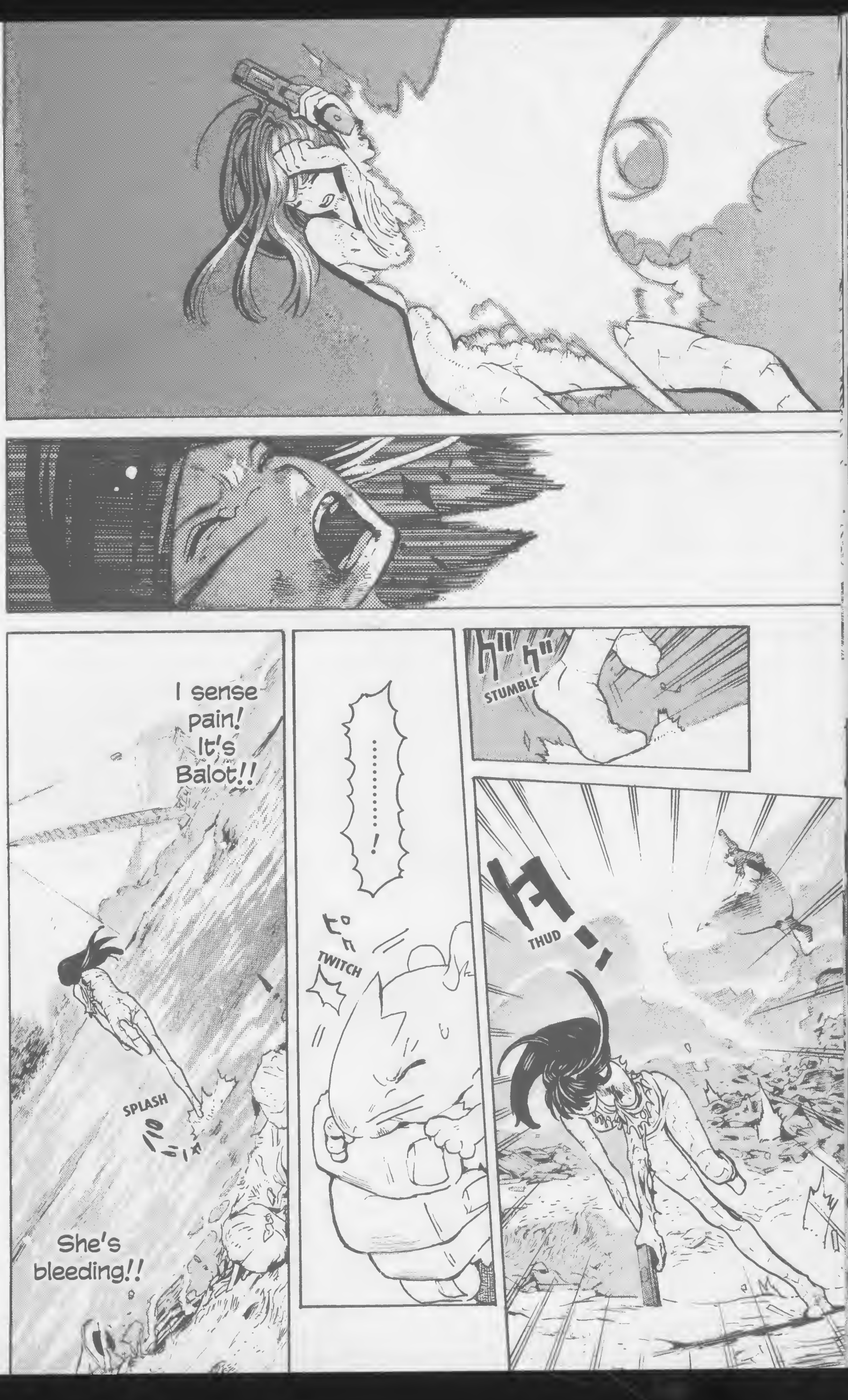

FWOOSH
ガシャン!
CRAAASH
!
"Œufcoque!"

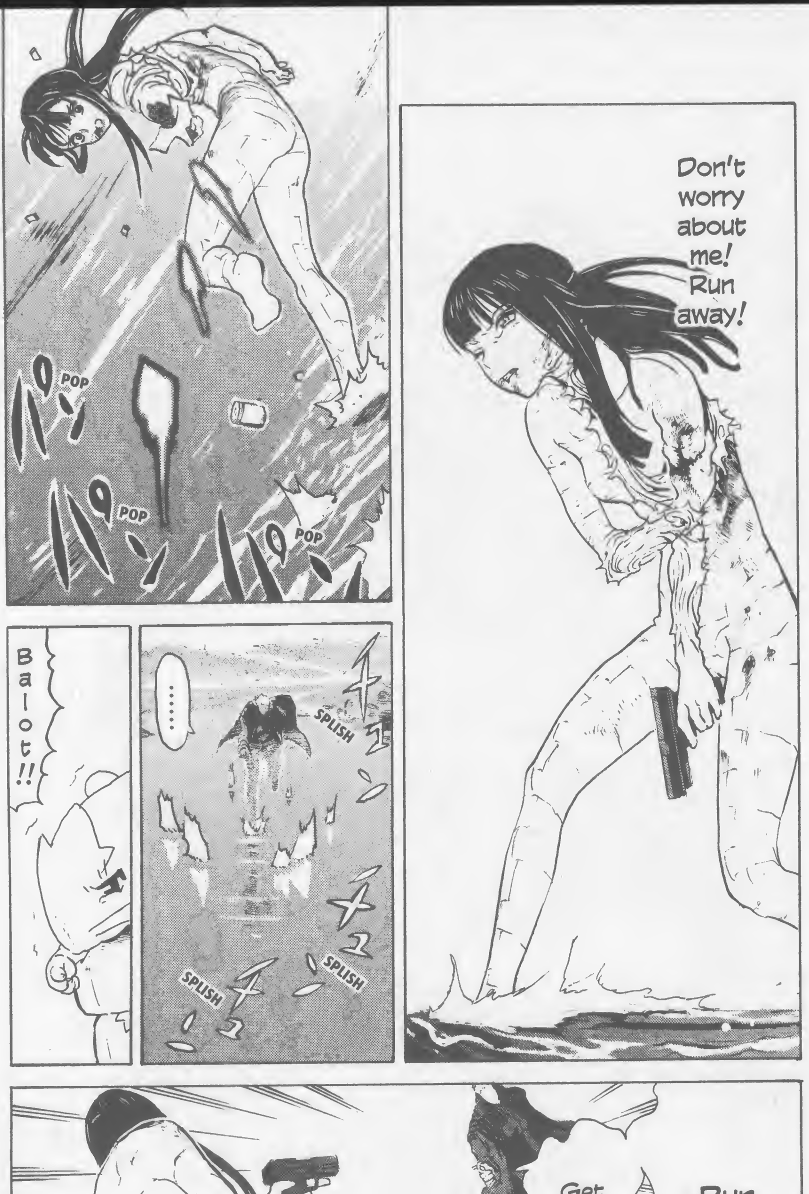

......
BAAAAAANG
I have to do it...
T-THUMP

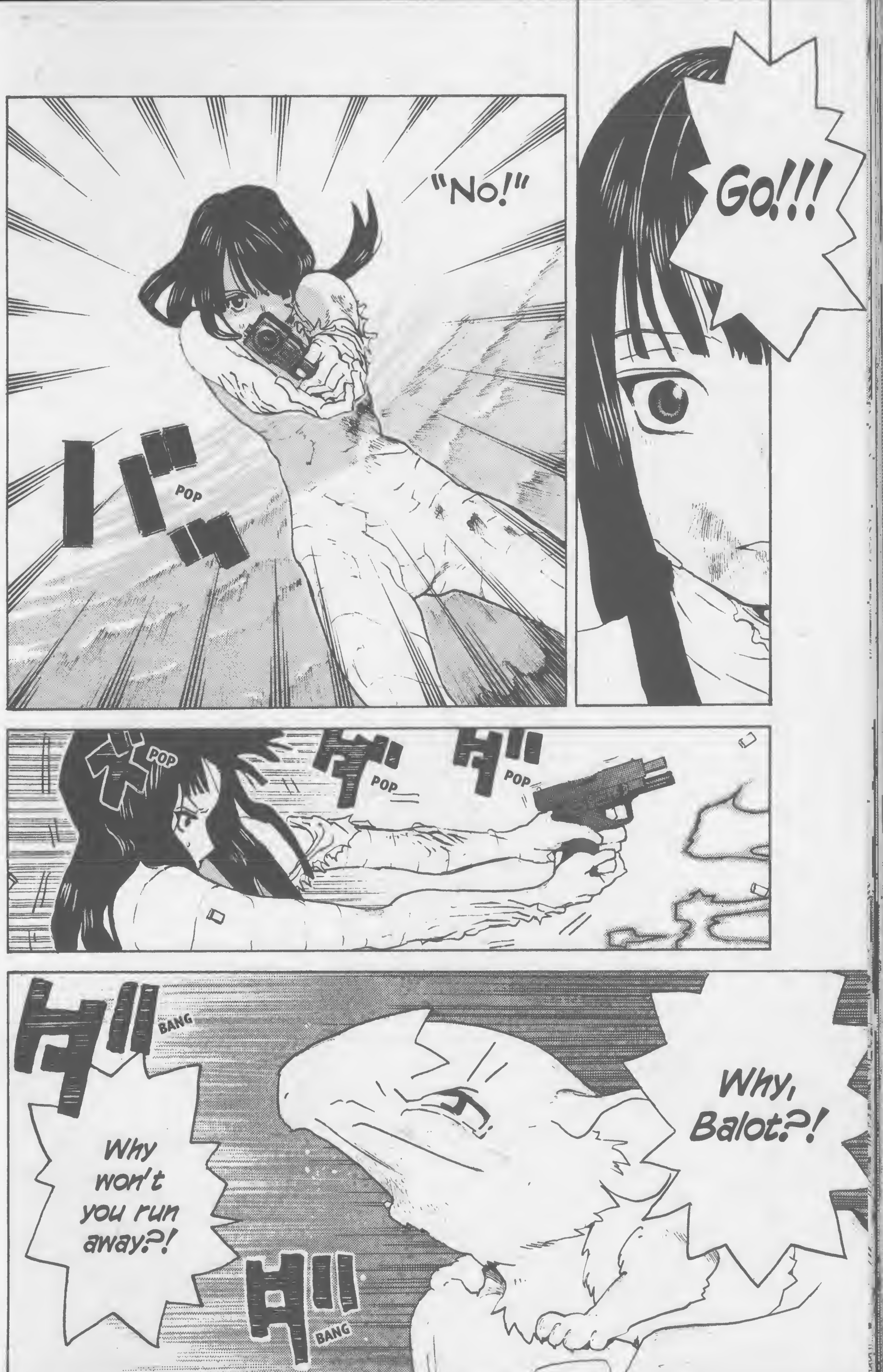

......!
Fifteen bullets...
No... I can take care of him with one!
Gooooo!!
POP

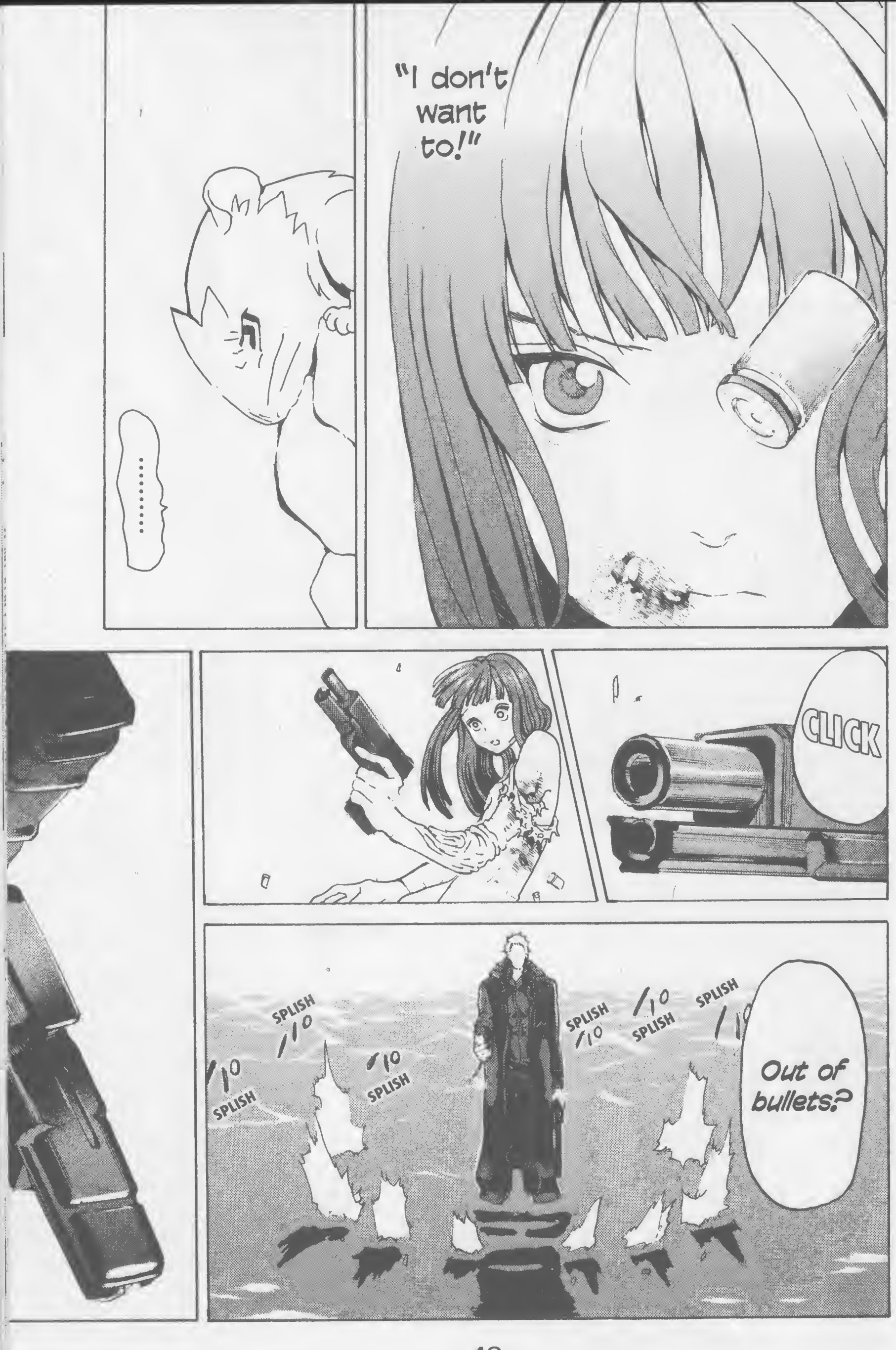

BANG
What?
It didn't hit him...!? Did I miss..?
ドスッ TMP
ドスッ TMP
......
One more time...!
ダダダーン TATA
TATA
TA
POP
POP
POP
POP
!?

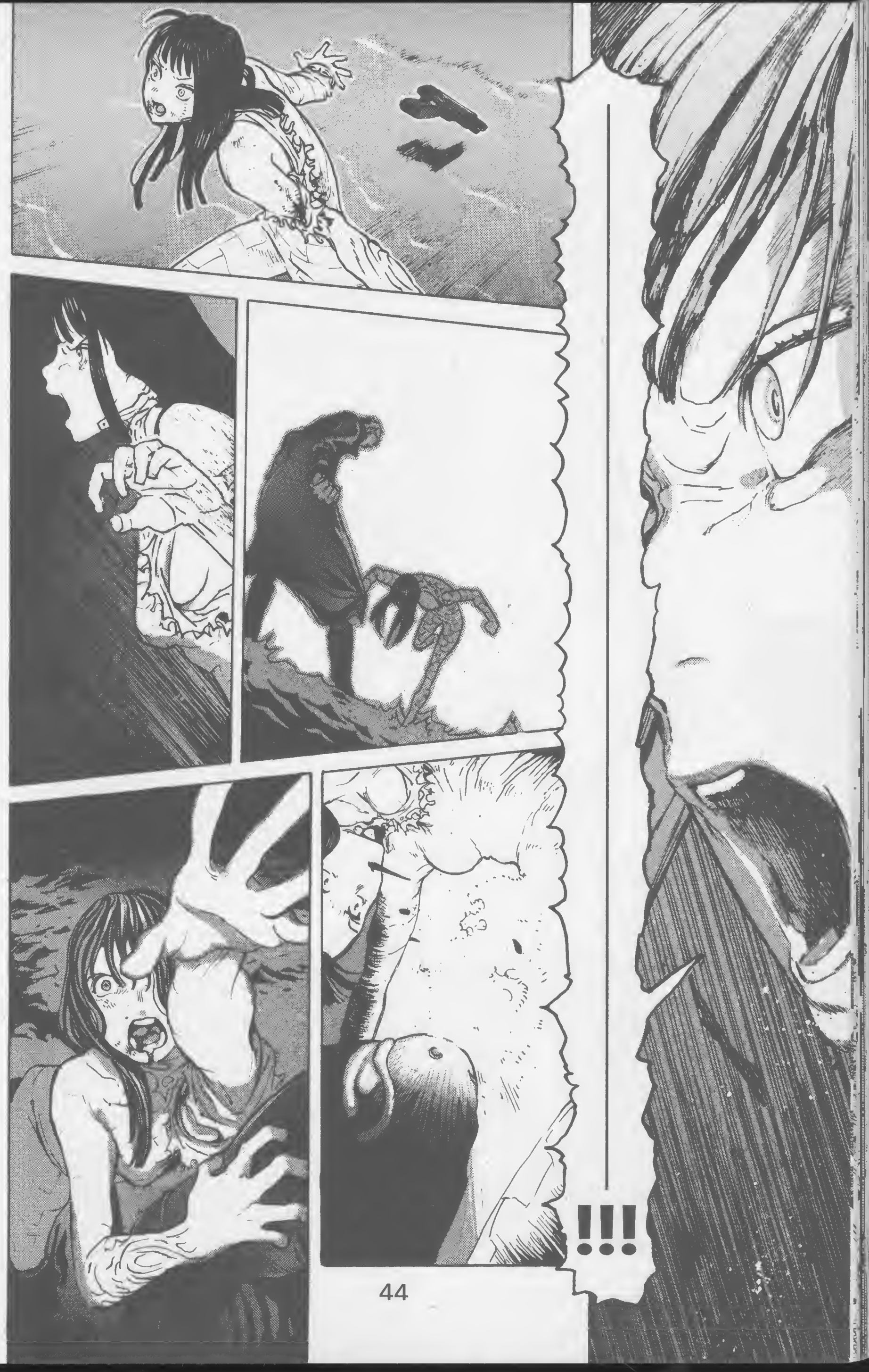

Why won't any of my bullets hit him?!
BAAAAAANG
I can't...

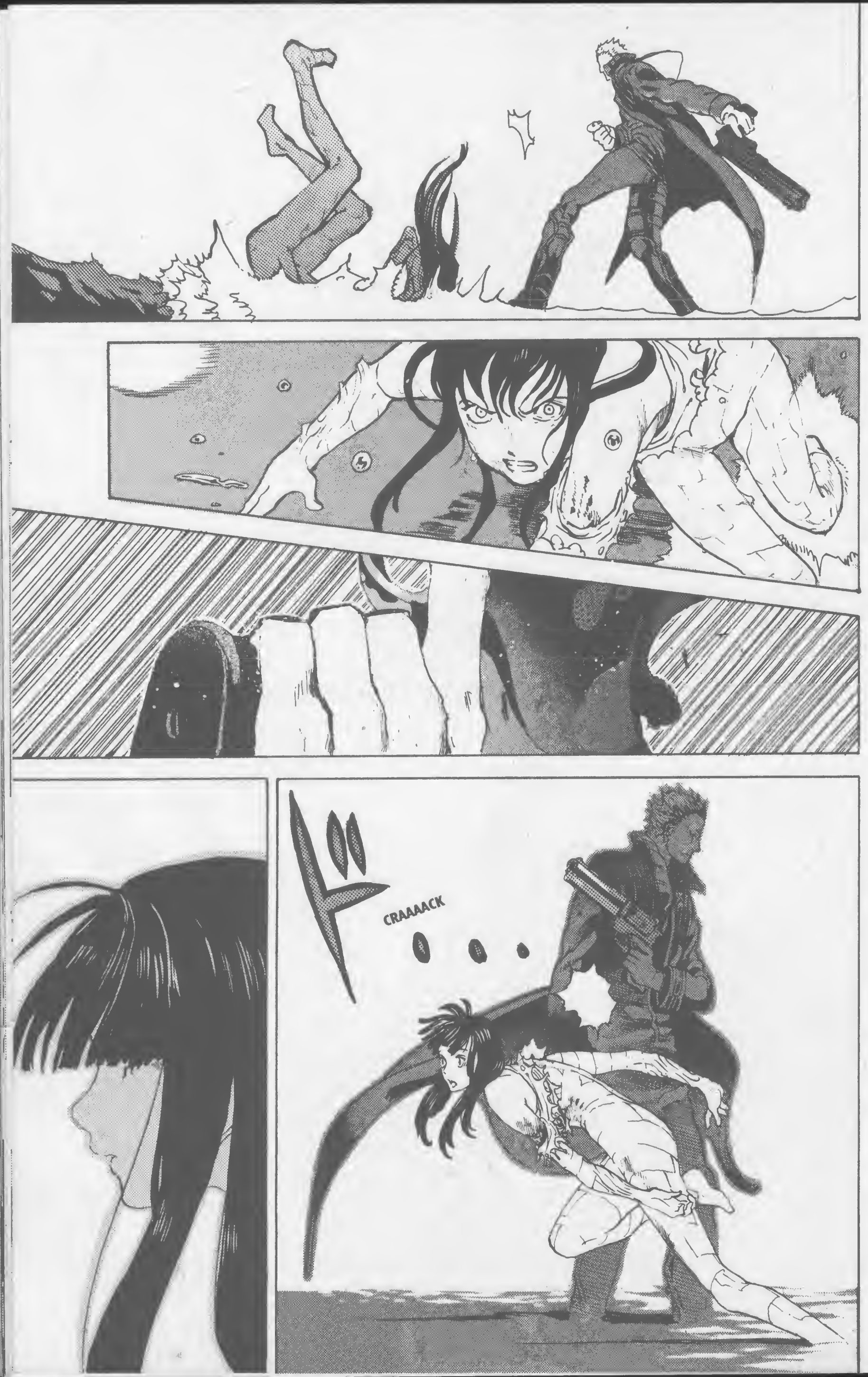

STUMBLE
THUD
TWITCH
…………!
I sense pain! It's Balot!!
SPLASH
She's bleeding!!

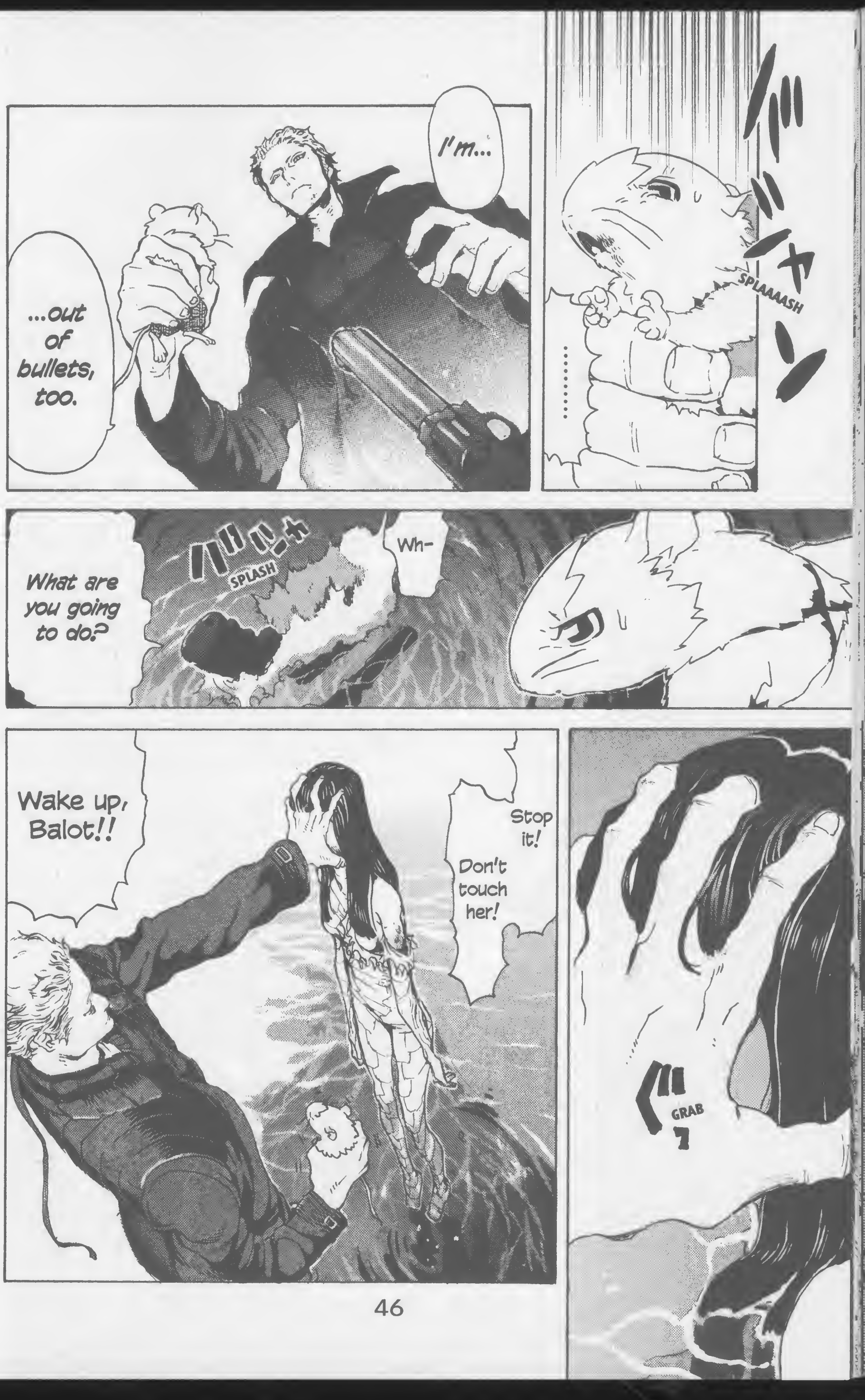

POP
POP
POP
Don't worry about me! Run away!
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
……
Balot!!
Run away!!!
Get out of here, now!!!
!

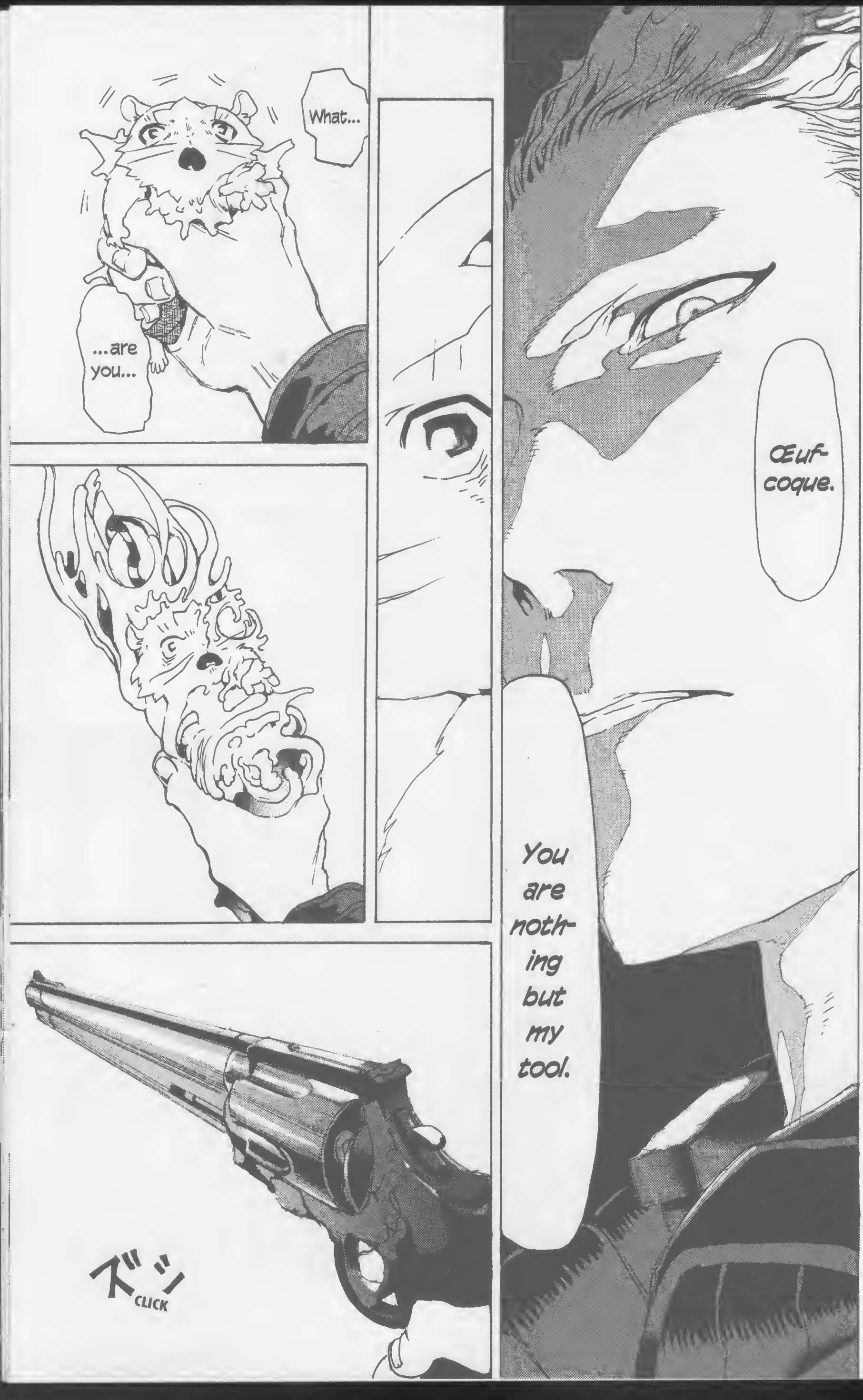

Go!!!
"No!"
POP
POP
POP
POP
Why, Balot?!
BANG
Why won't you run away?!
BANG

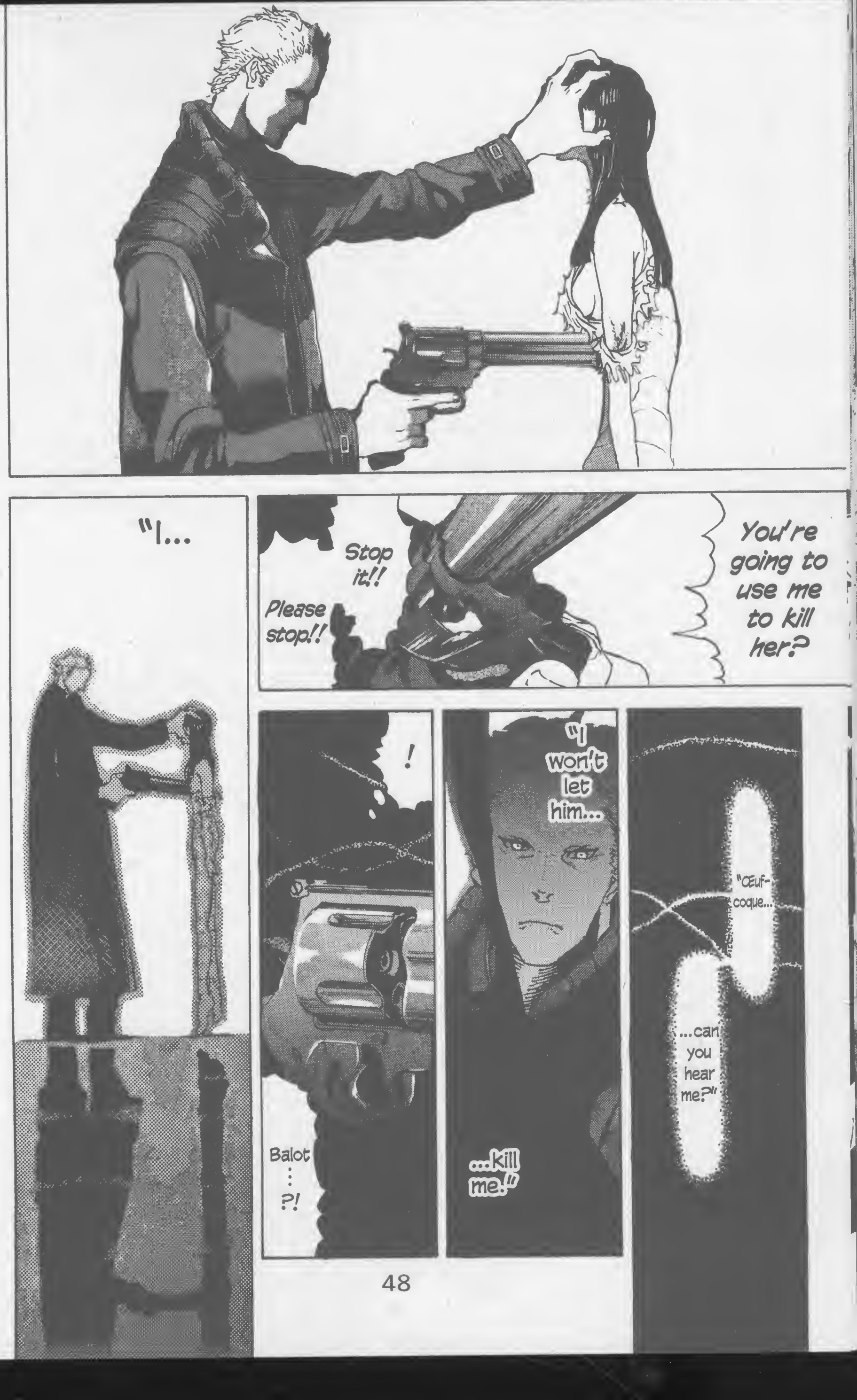

"I don't want to!"
……
CLICK
Out of bullets?
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH

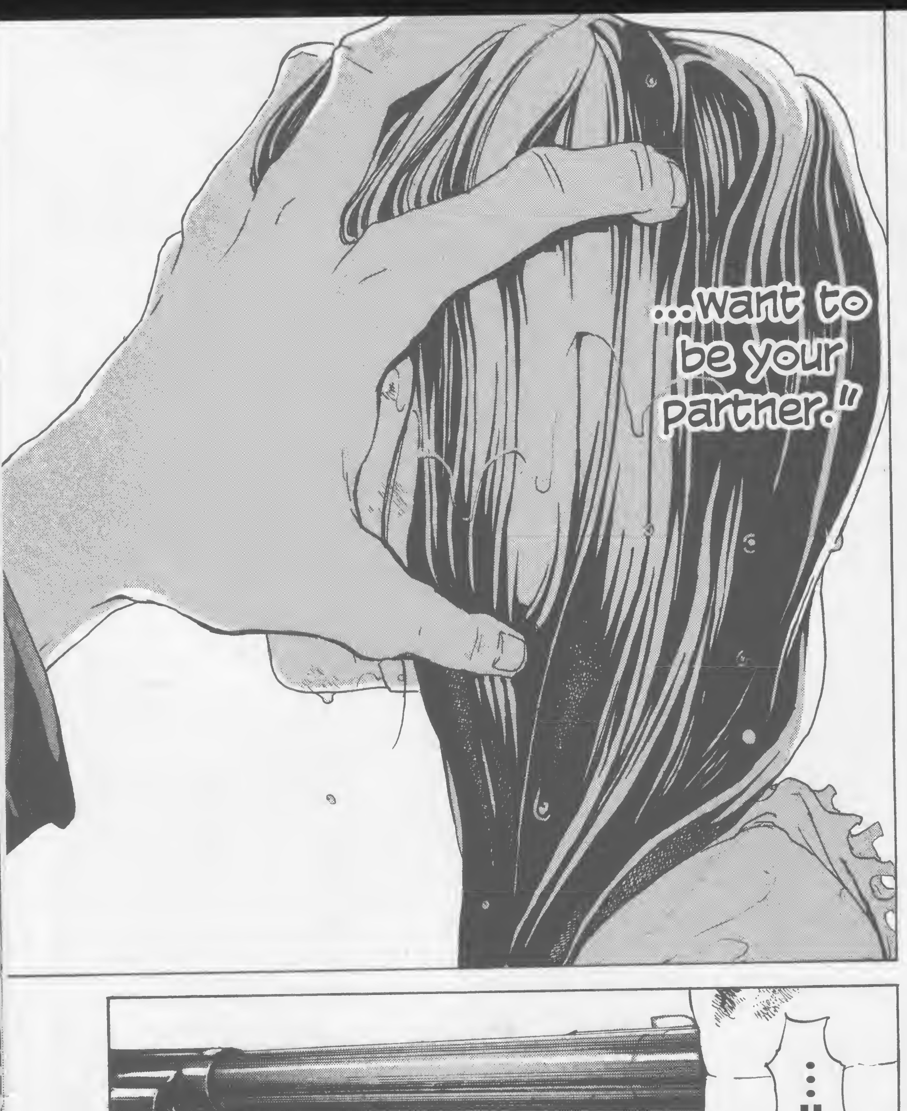

!!!

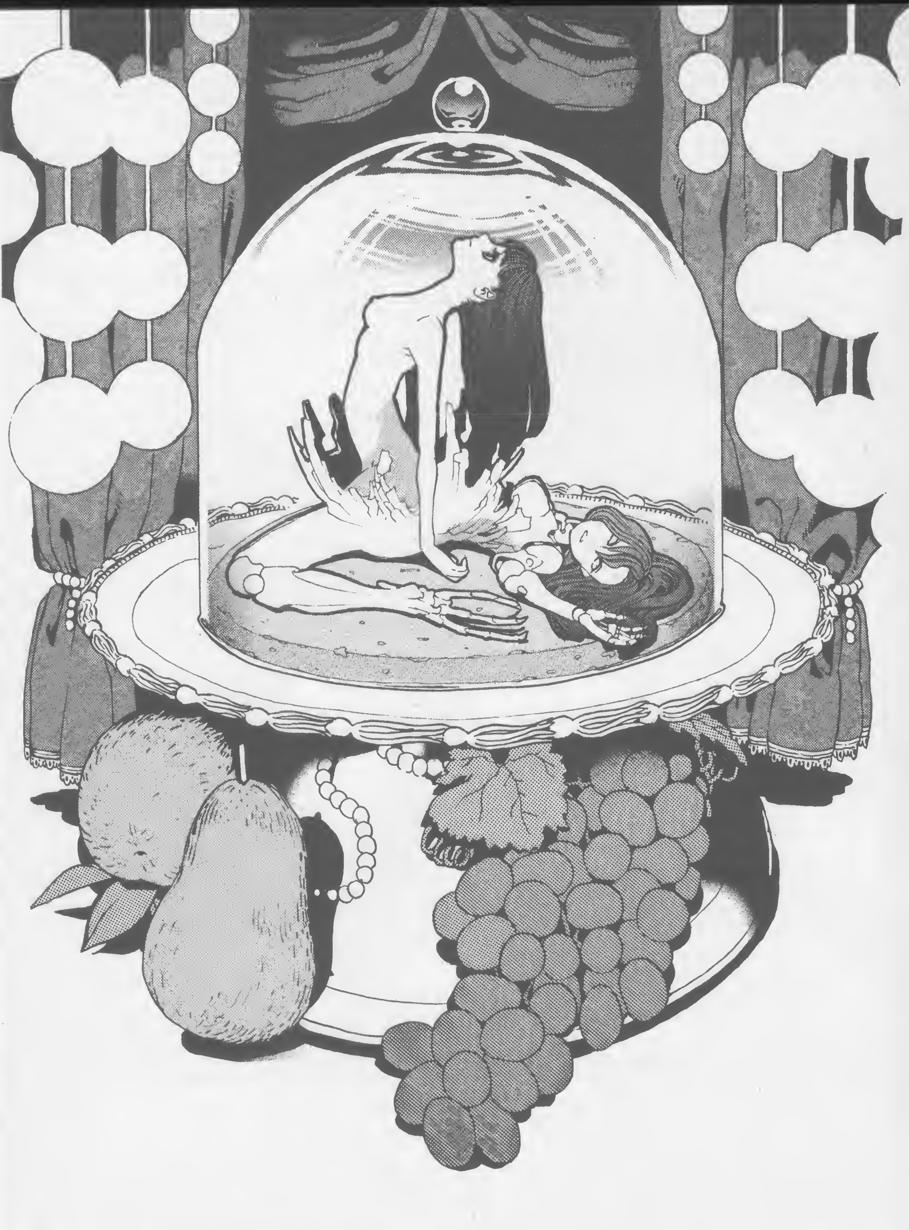

ド
CRAAAACK
・・・


SPLAAAASH
....
I'm...
...out of bullets, too.
Wh-
SPLASH
What are you going to do?
GRAB
Stop it! Don't touch her!
Wake up, Balot!!


Œuf-coque.
You are nothing but my tool.
What...
...are you...
CLICK


You're going to use me to kill her?
Stop it!!
Please stop!!
"I...
Balot...?!
"Œuf-coque...
...can you hear me?"
"I won't let him...
...kill me."
!

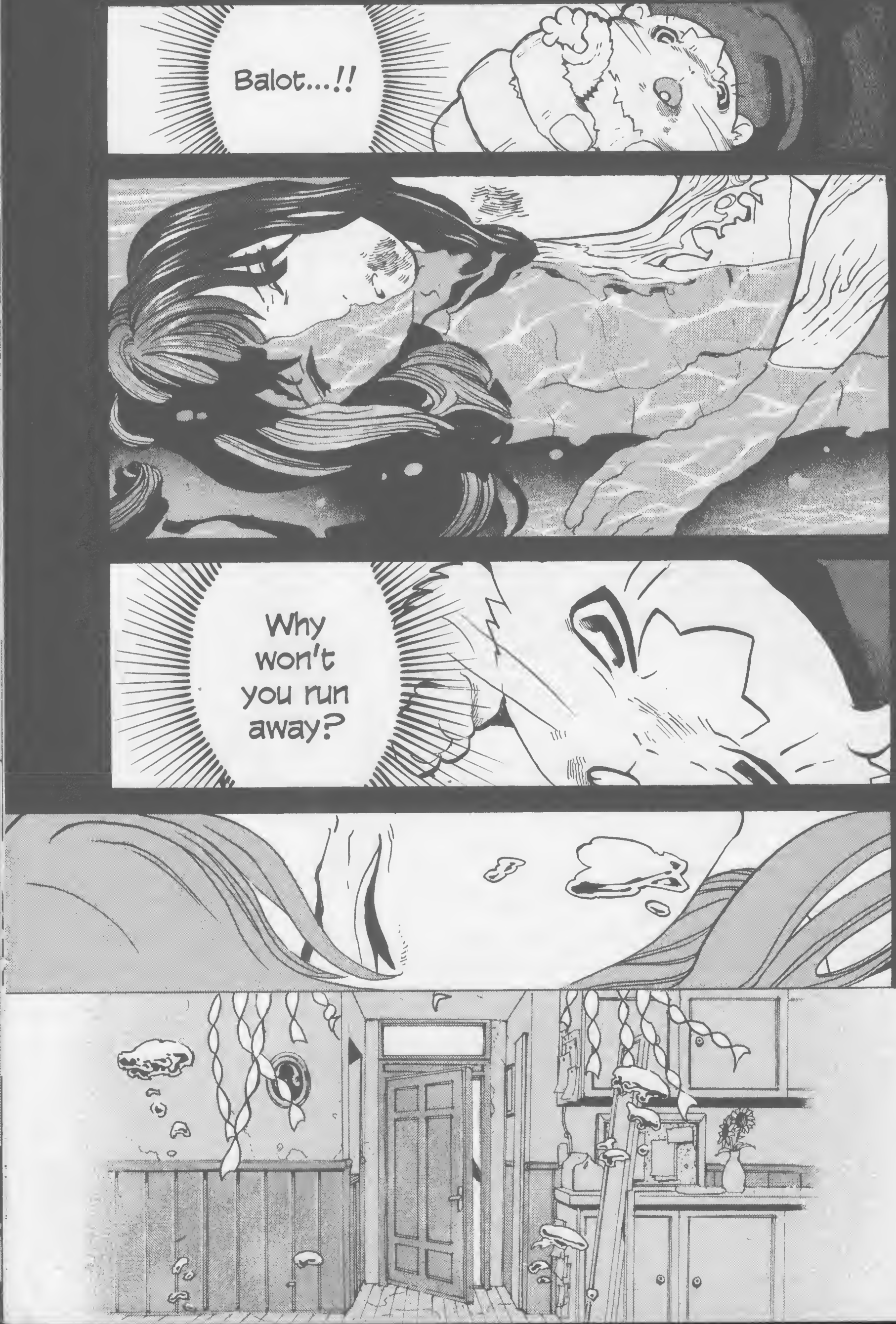

...want to be your partner."
...!!
CLICK

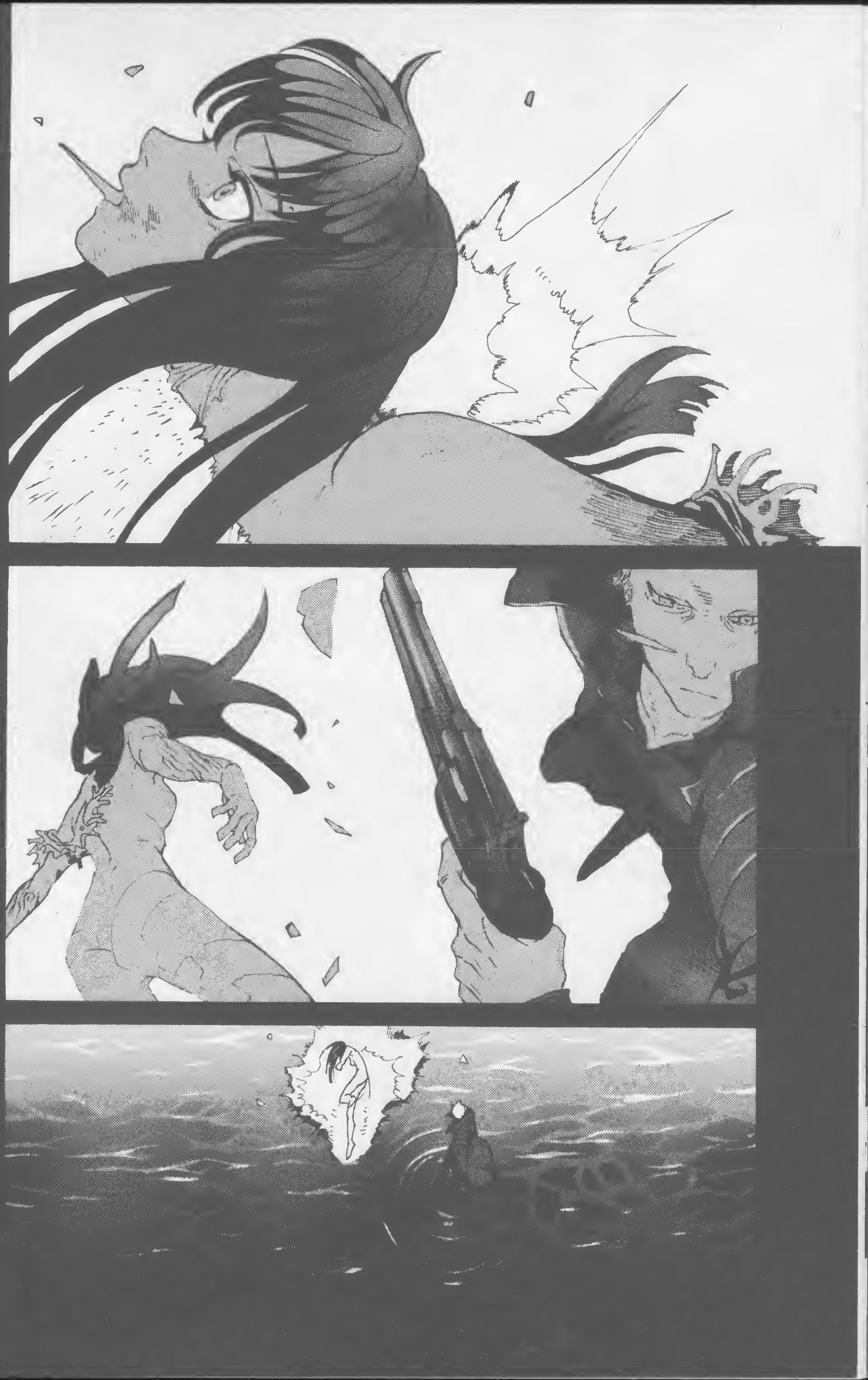


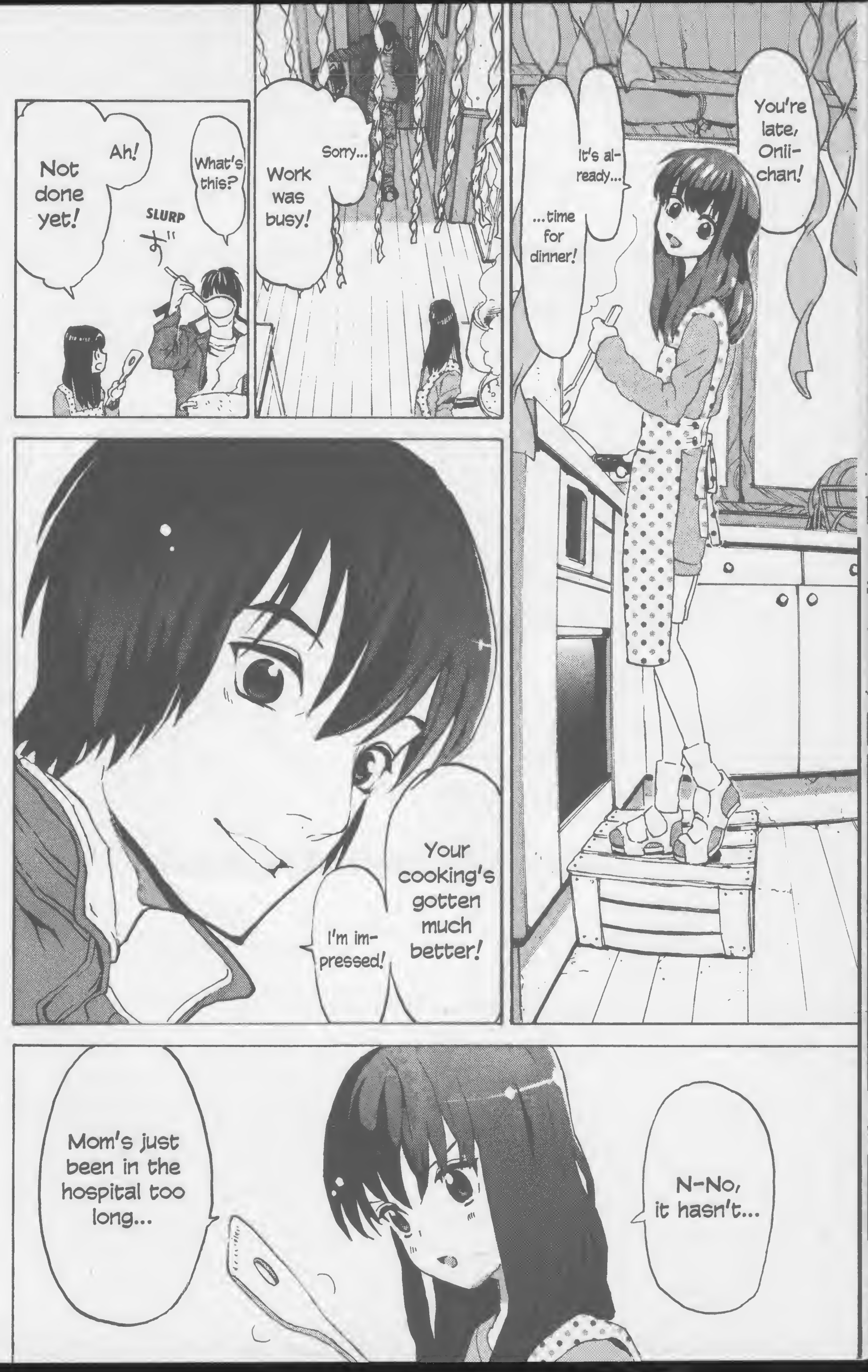
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

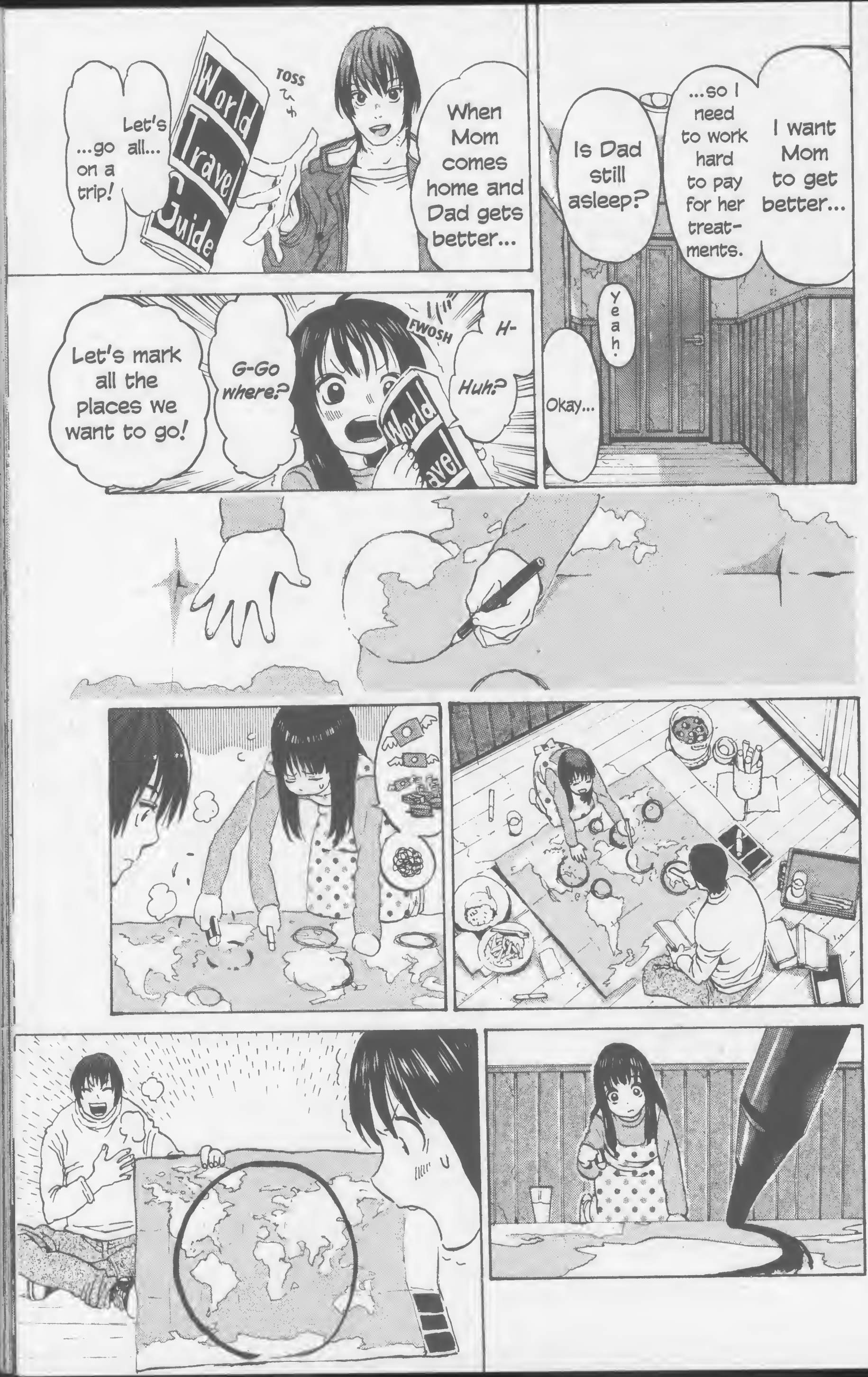
Chapter 5: Crank-up (1)

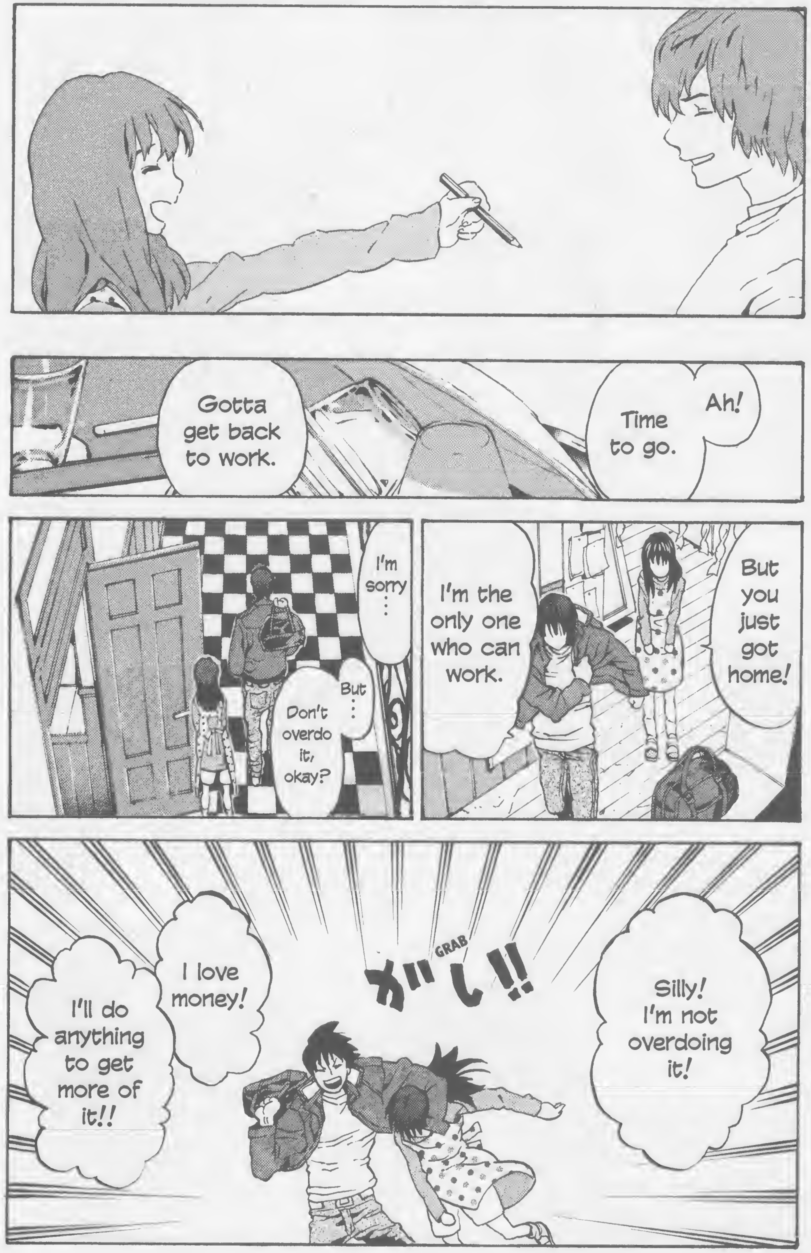
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

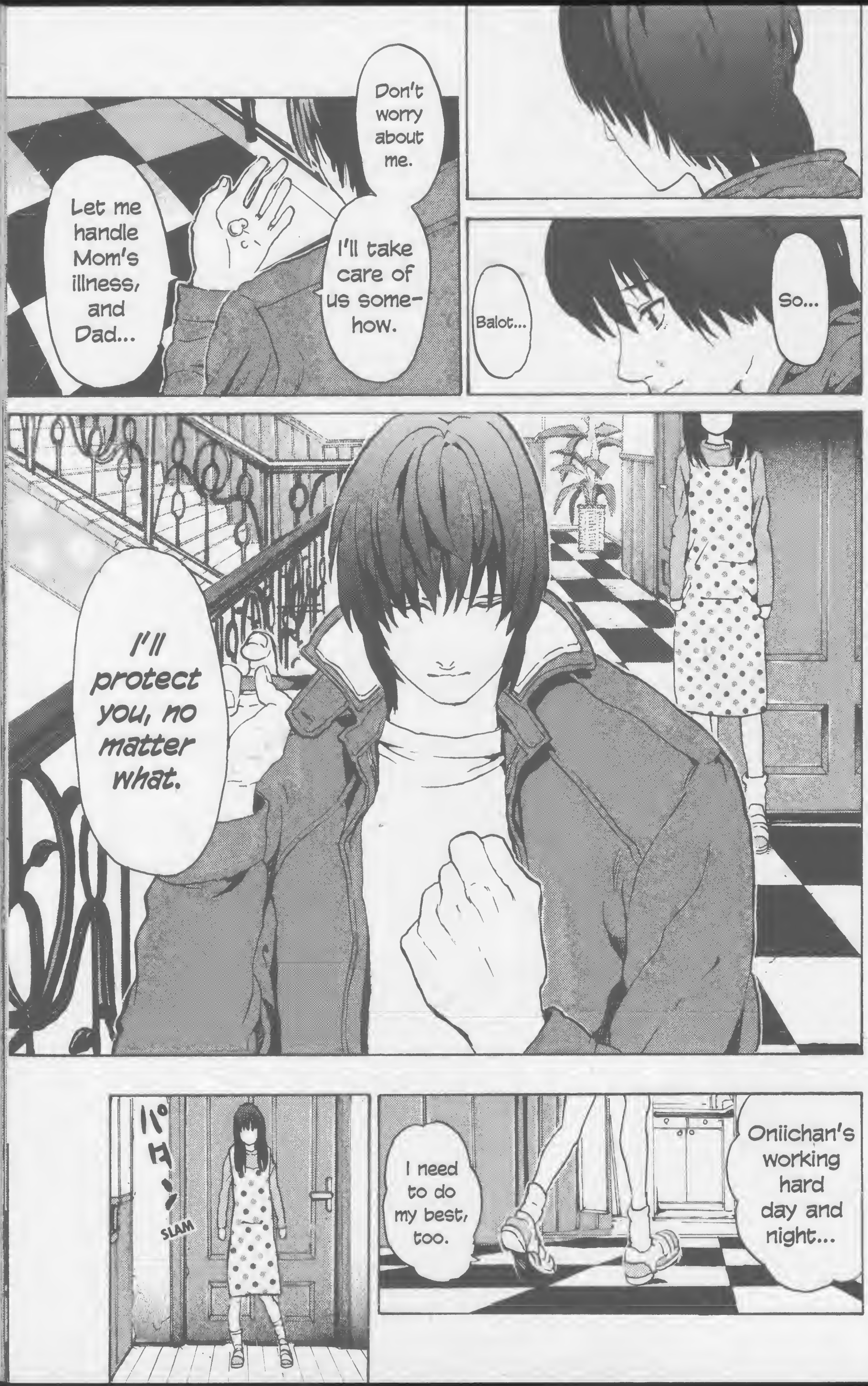

Balot...!!
Why won't you run away?

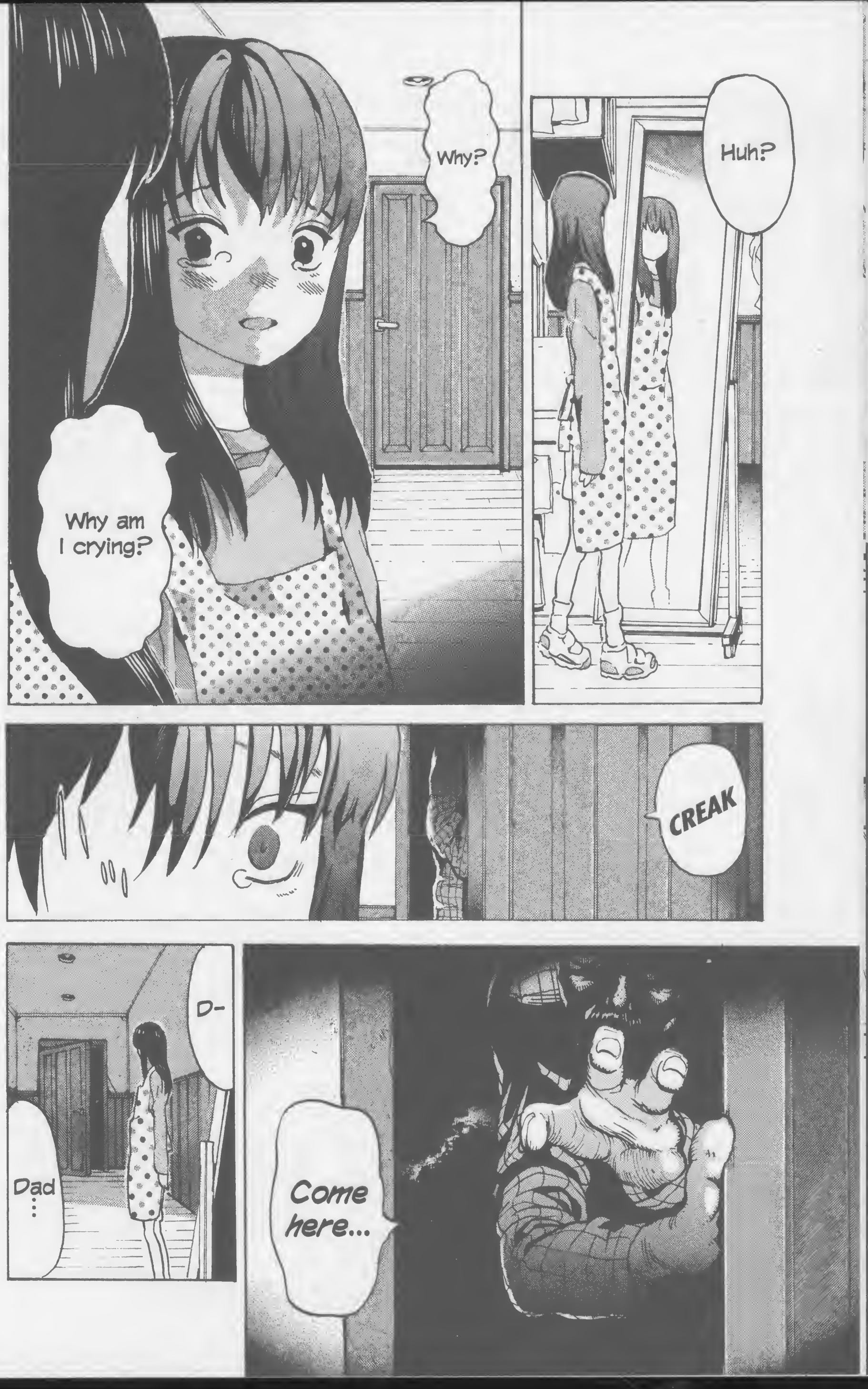


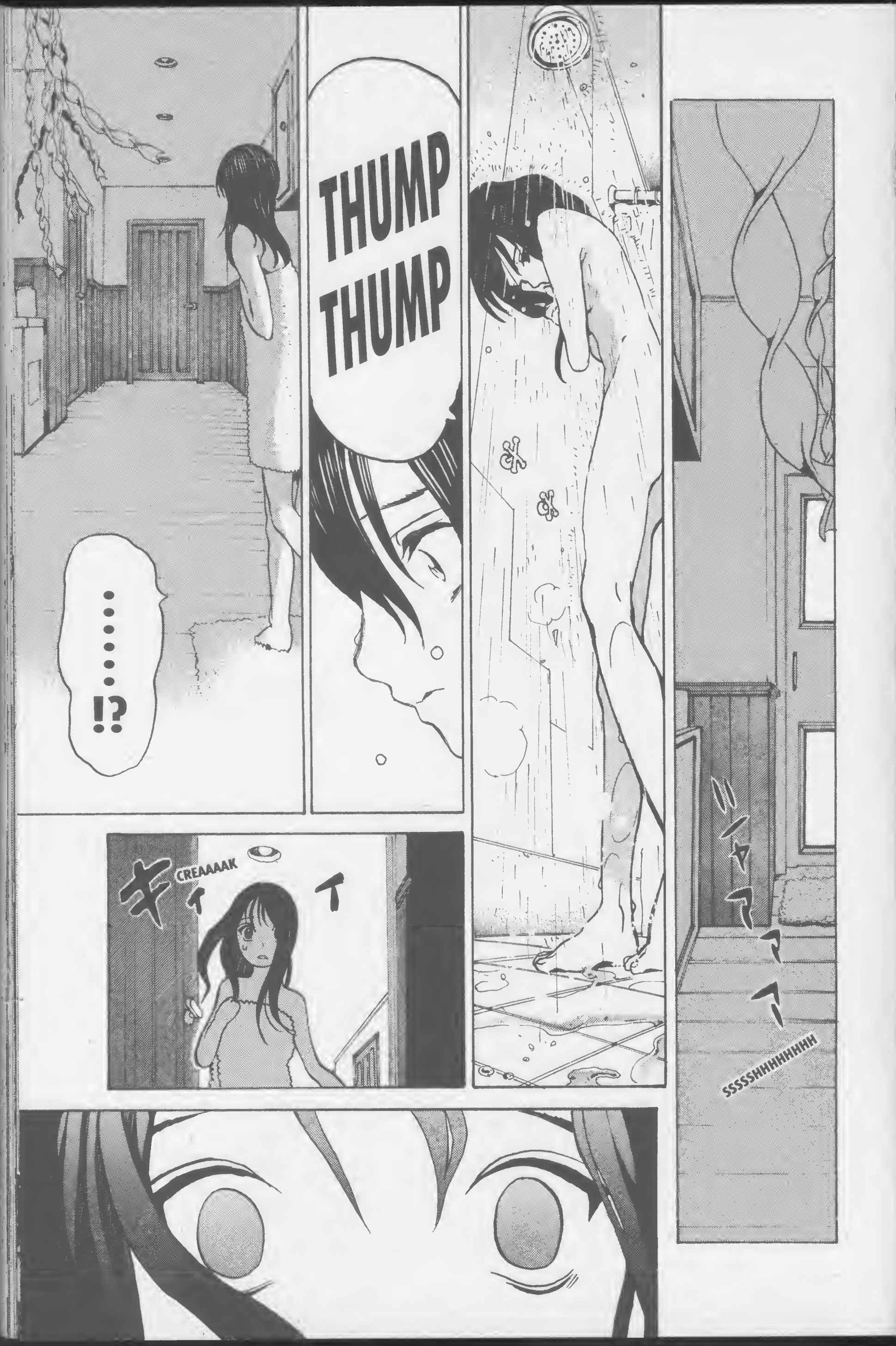

You're late, Onii-chan!
It's already...
...time for dinner!
Sorry...
Work was busy!
What's this?
SLURP
ず
Ah!
Not done yet!
Your cooking's gotten much better!
I'm impressed!
N-No, it hasn't...
Mom's just been in the hospital too long...

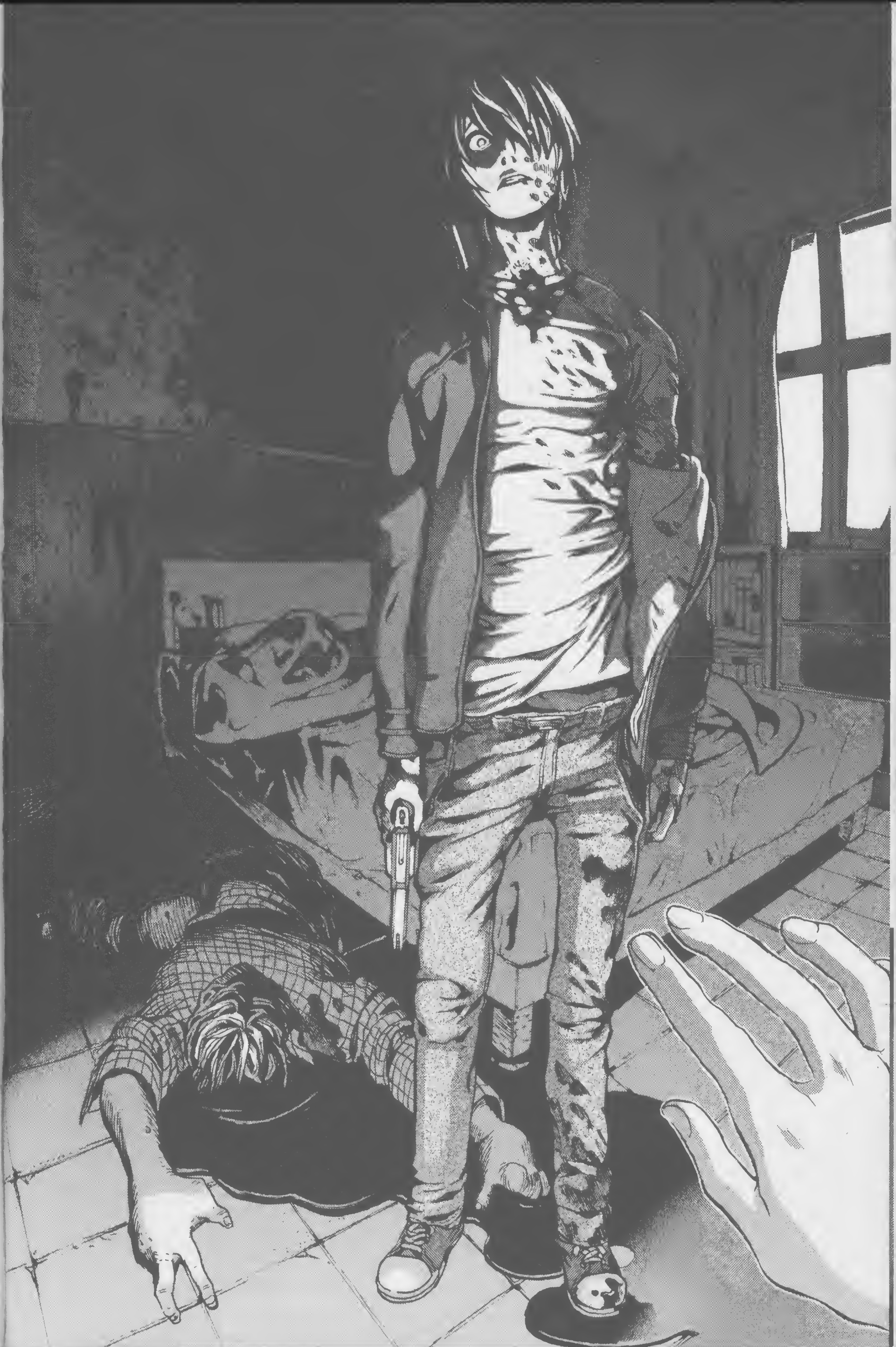

I want Mom to get better...
...so I need to work hard to pay for her treatments.
Is Dad still asleep?
Yeah.
Okay...
When Mom comes home and Dad gets better...
TOSS
World Travel Guide
Let's all...
...go on a trip!
H-Huh?
FWOSH
G-Go where?
World Travel
Let's mark all the places we want to go!

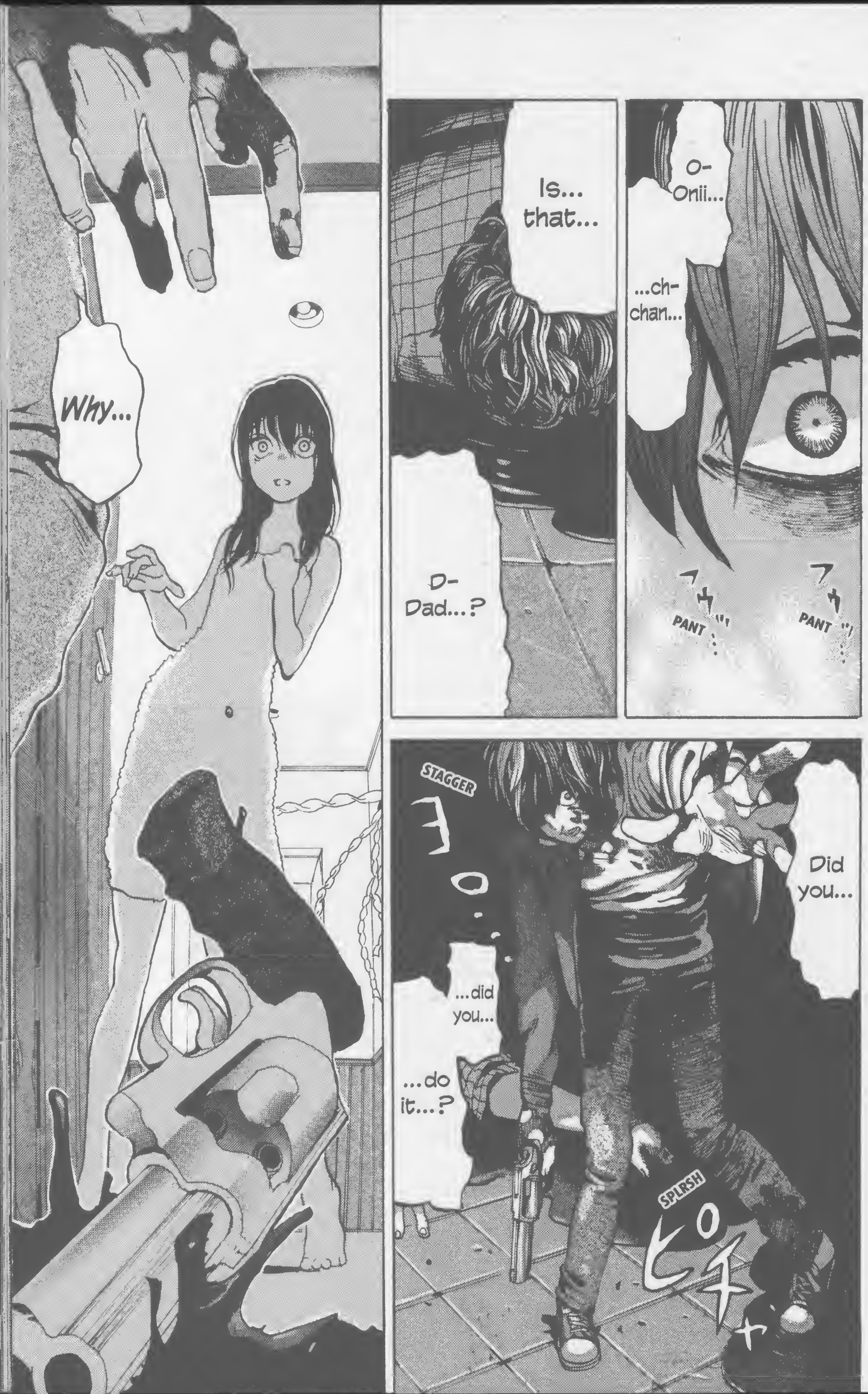

Ah!
Time to go.
Gotta get back to work.
But you just got home!
I'm the only one who can work.
I'm sorry…
But… Don't overdo it, okay?
Silly! I'm not overdoing it!
GRAB
がし!!
I love money!
I'll do anything to get more of it!!

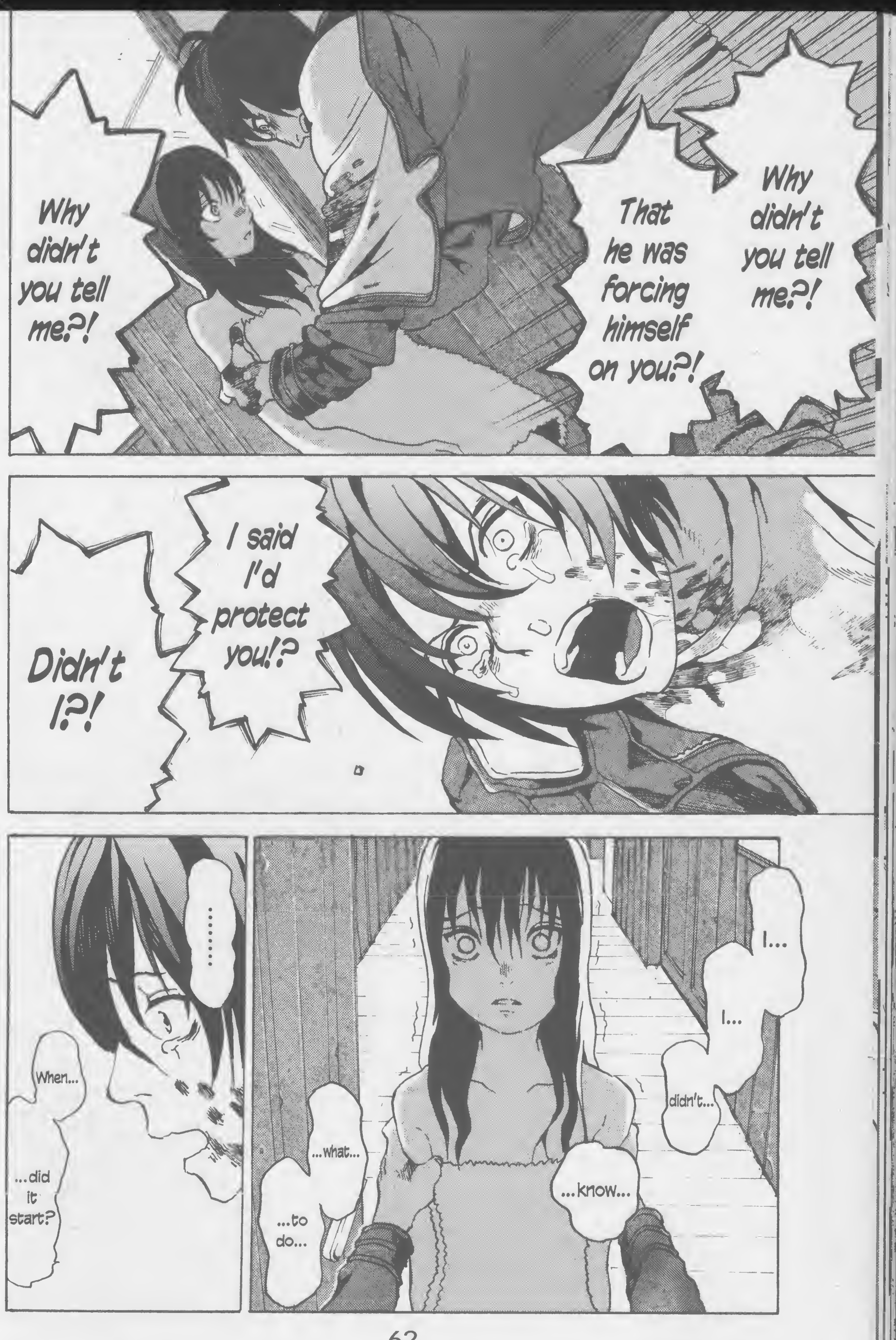

Don't worry about me.
So...
Balot...
I'll take care of us some-how.
Let me handle Mom's illness, and Dad...
I'll protect you, no matter what.
Oniichan's working hard day and night...
I need to do my best, too.
パタン
SLAM

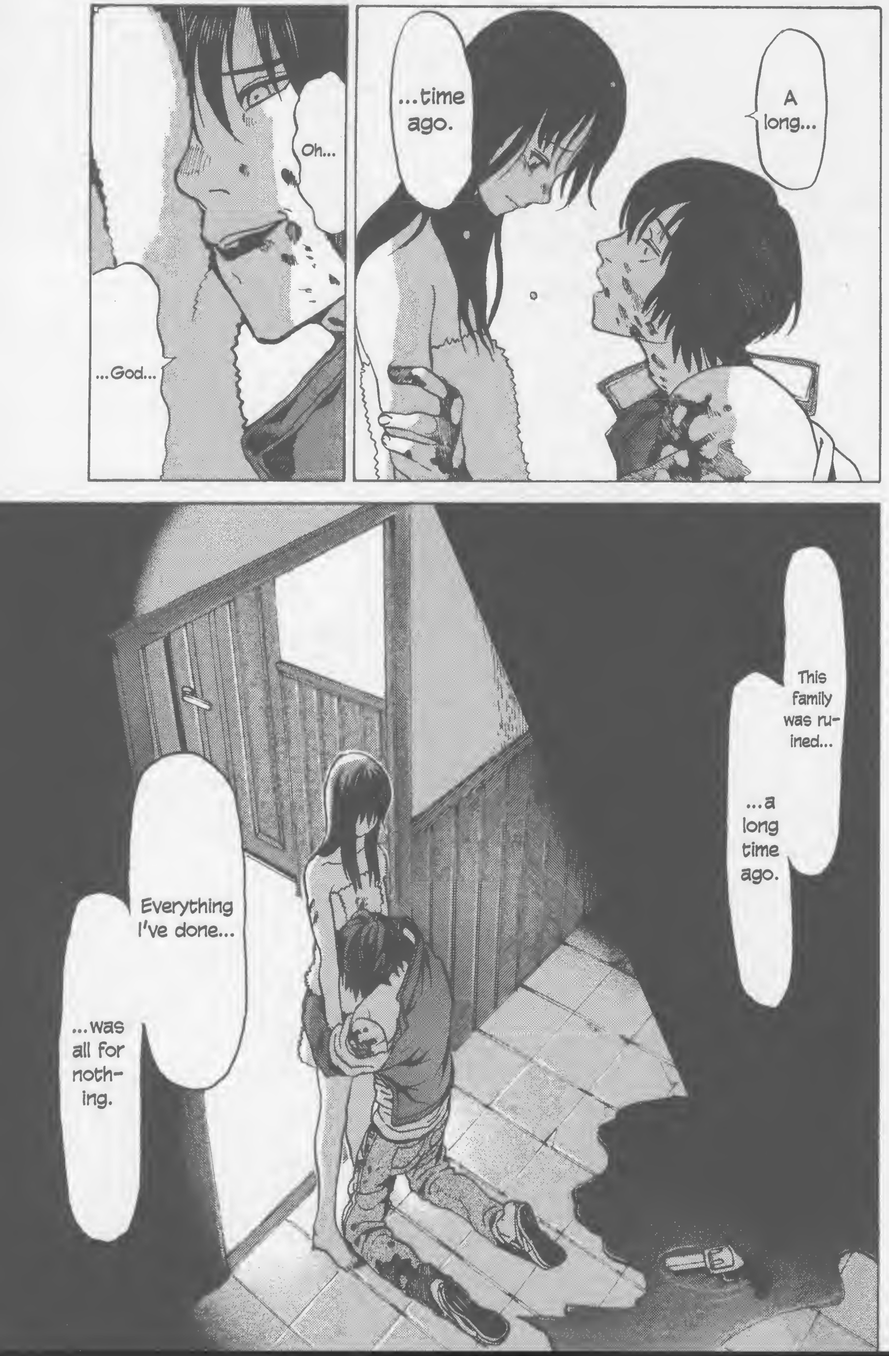

Huh?
Why?
Why am I crying?
CREAK
Come here...
D-
Dad...

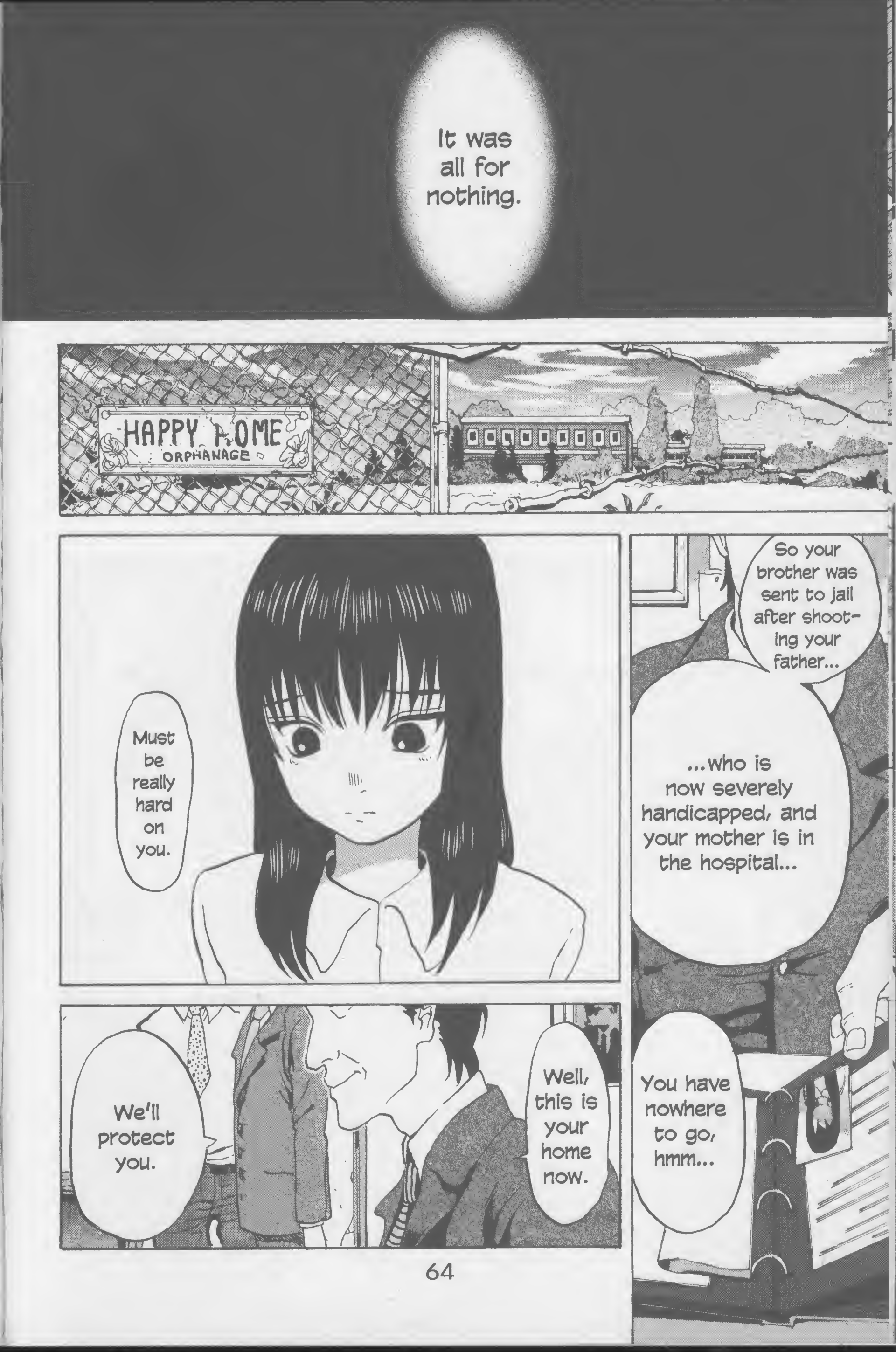

シャアァァァ
SSSSSHHHHHHHH
THUMP THUMP
......!?
キィイ
CREAAAAK

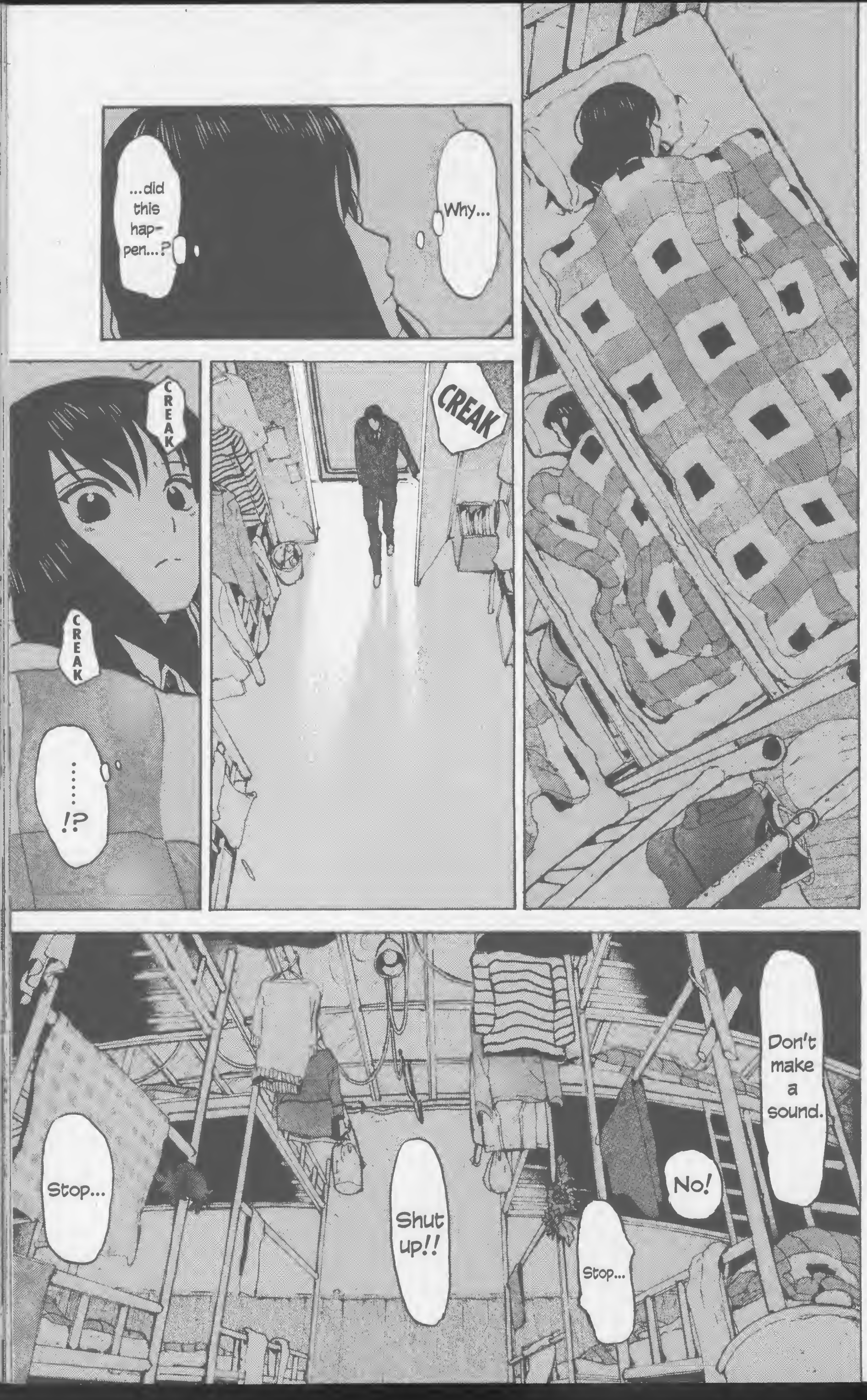


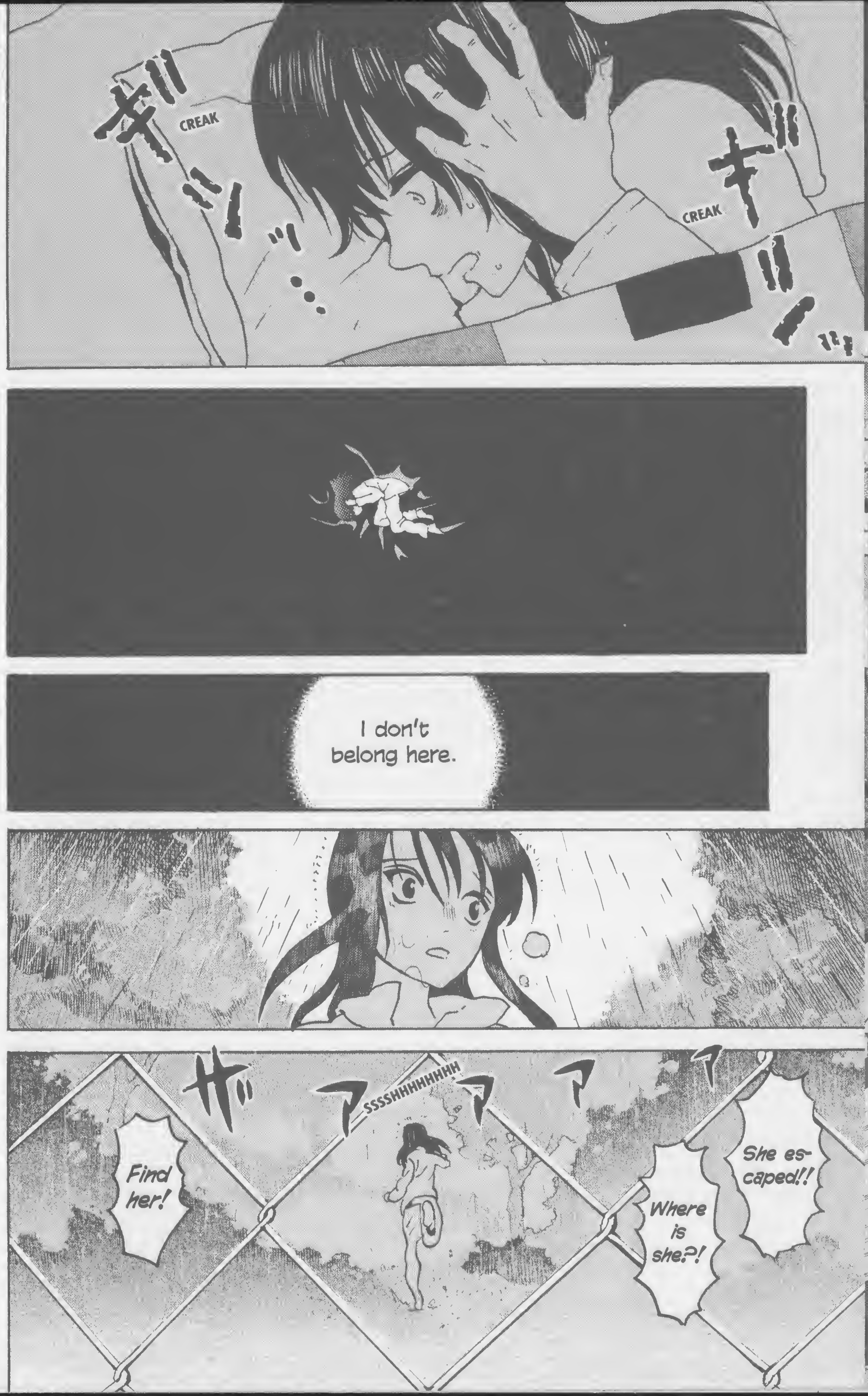

O-Onii...
...ch-chan...
ハァ PANT
ハァ PANT
Is... that...
D-Dad...?
Did you...
...did you...
...do it...?
STAGGER
ヨロ
SPLASH
ピチャ
Why...

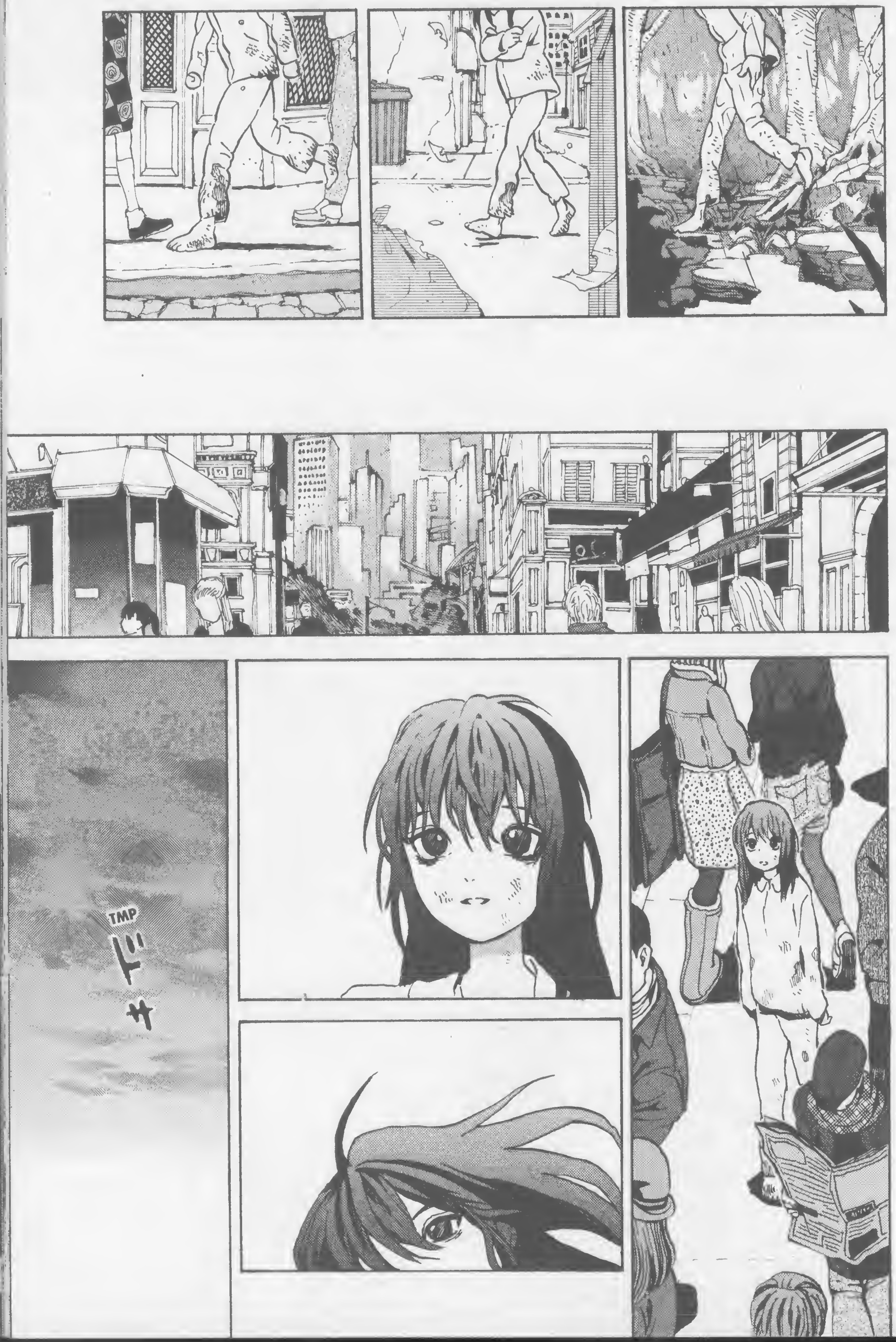

Why didn't you tell me?!
That he was forcing himself on you?!
Why didn't you tell me?!
I said I'd protect you!?
Didn't I?!
I...
I...
didn't...
...know...
...what...
...to do...
....
When...
...did it start?

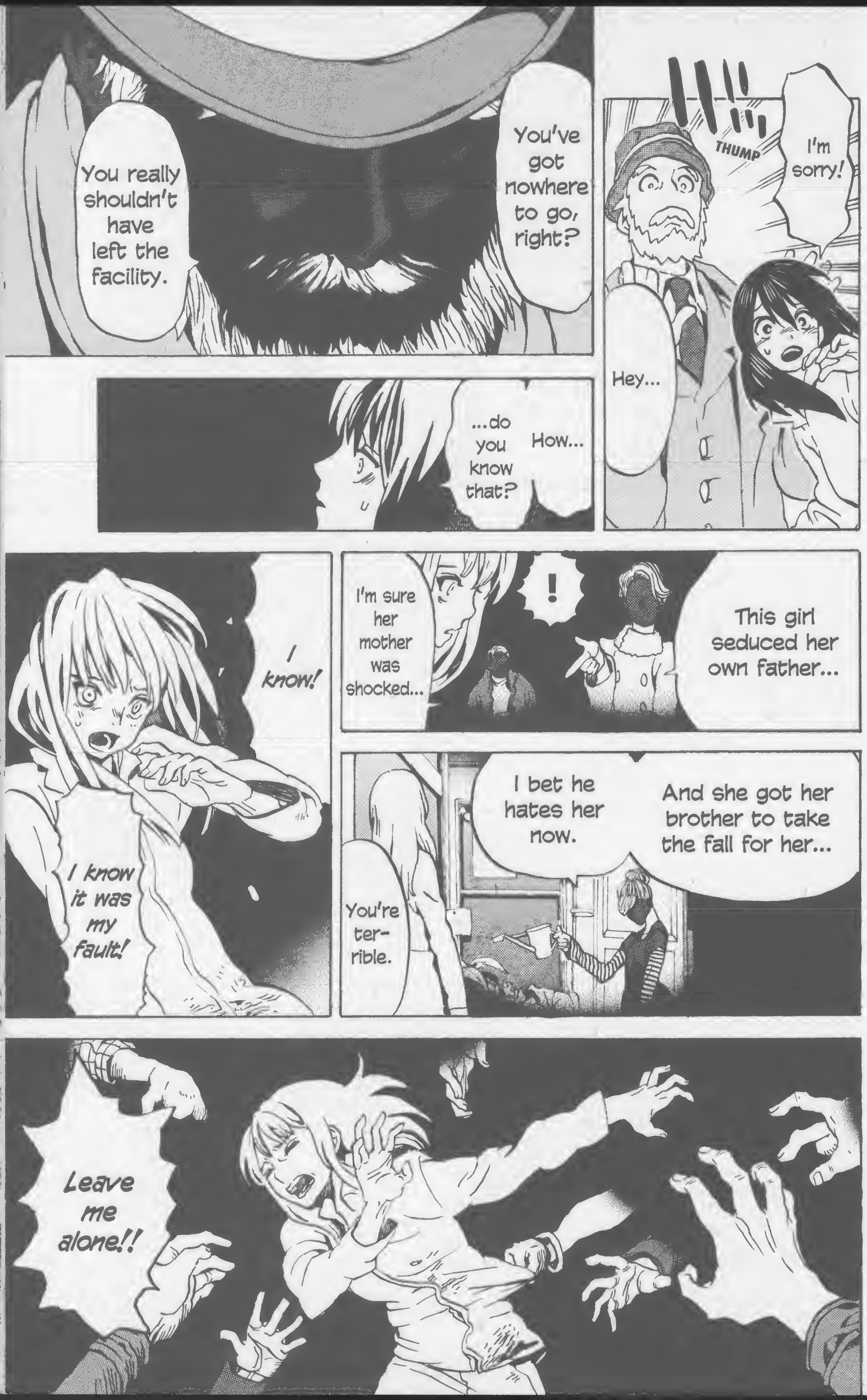

A long...
...time ago.
Oh...
...God...
This family was ruined...
...a long time ago.
Everything I've done...
...was all for nothing.

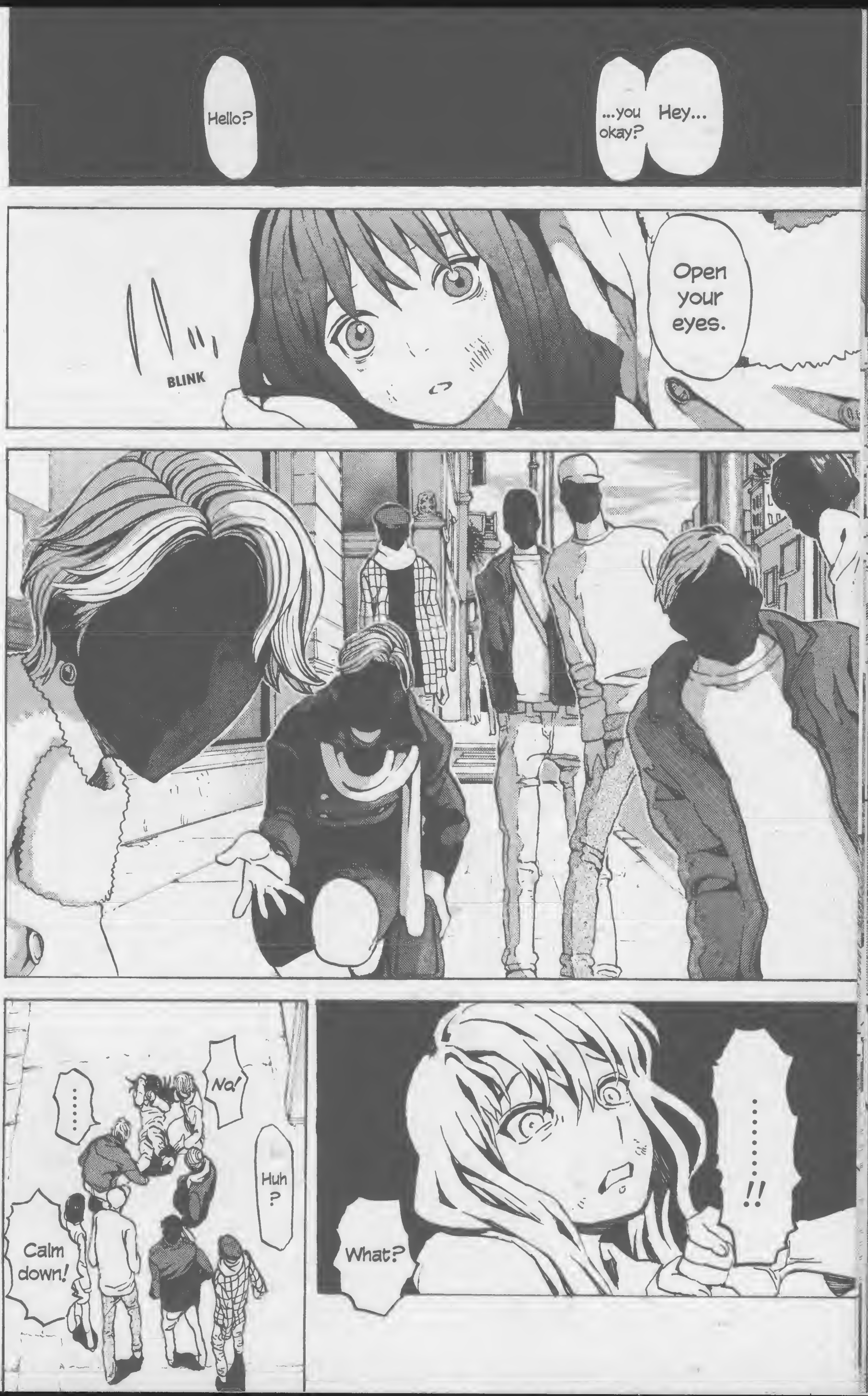

It was all for nothing.
HAPPY HOME
ORPHANAGE
So your brother was sent to jail after shooting your father...
...who is now severely handicapped, and your mother is in the hospital...
You have nowhere to go, hmm...
Must be really hard on you.
Well, this is your home now.
We'll protect you.

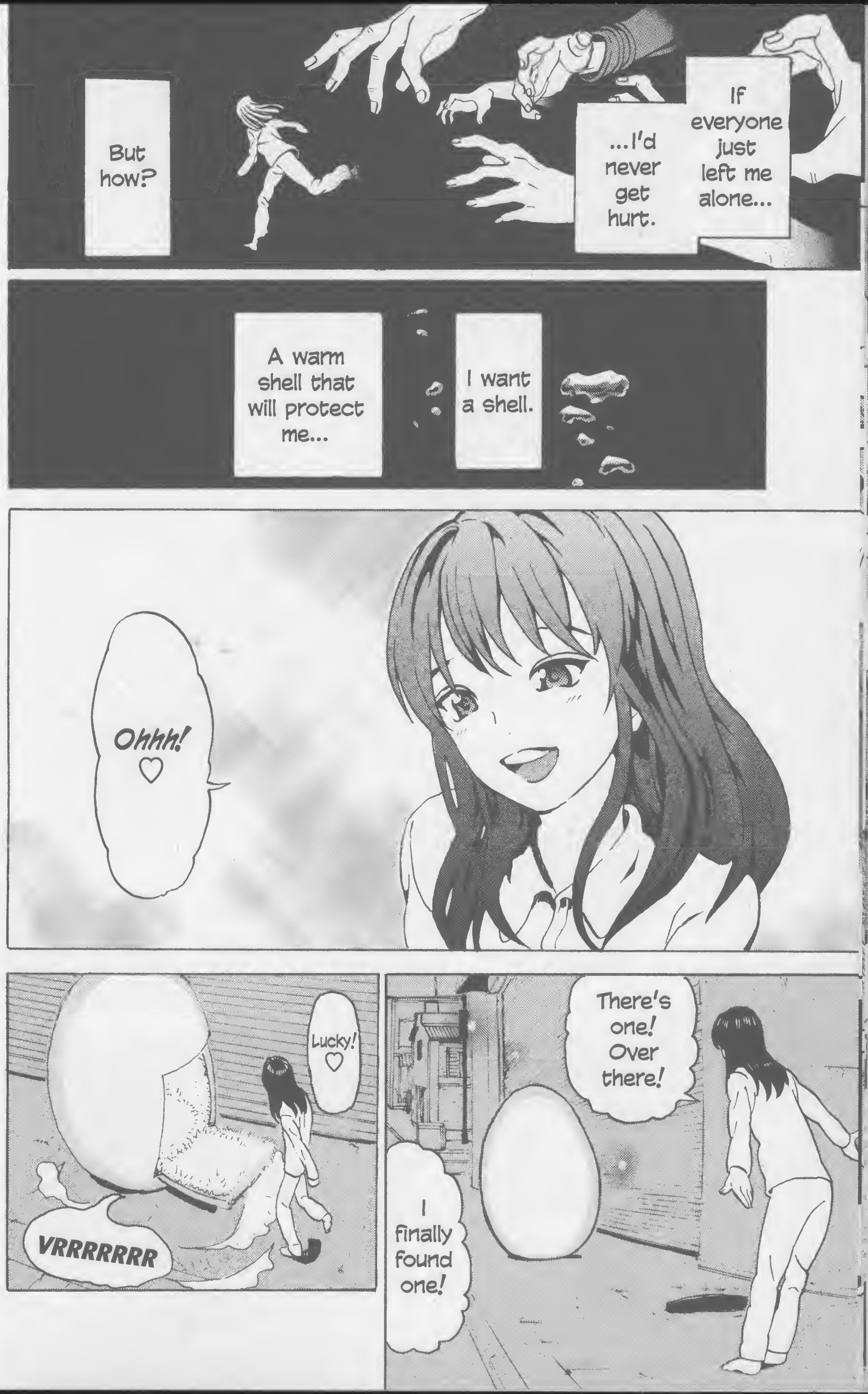

Why...
...did this happen...?
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
......!?
Don't make a sound.
No!
Stop...
Shut up!!
Stop...

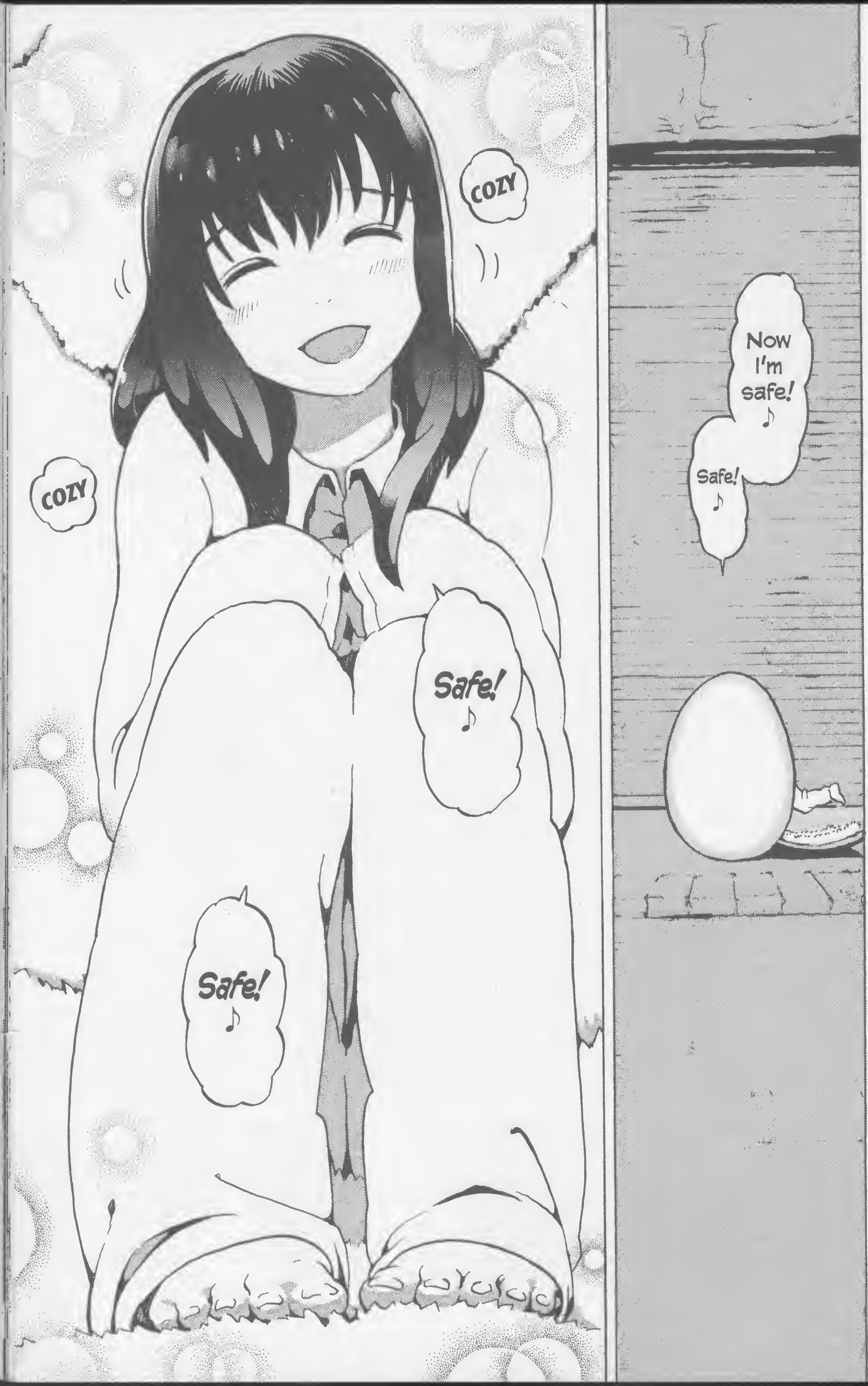

CREAK
CREAK
I don't belong here.
She escaped!!
Where is she?!
Find her!
SSSSHHHHHHHH

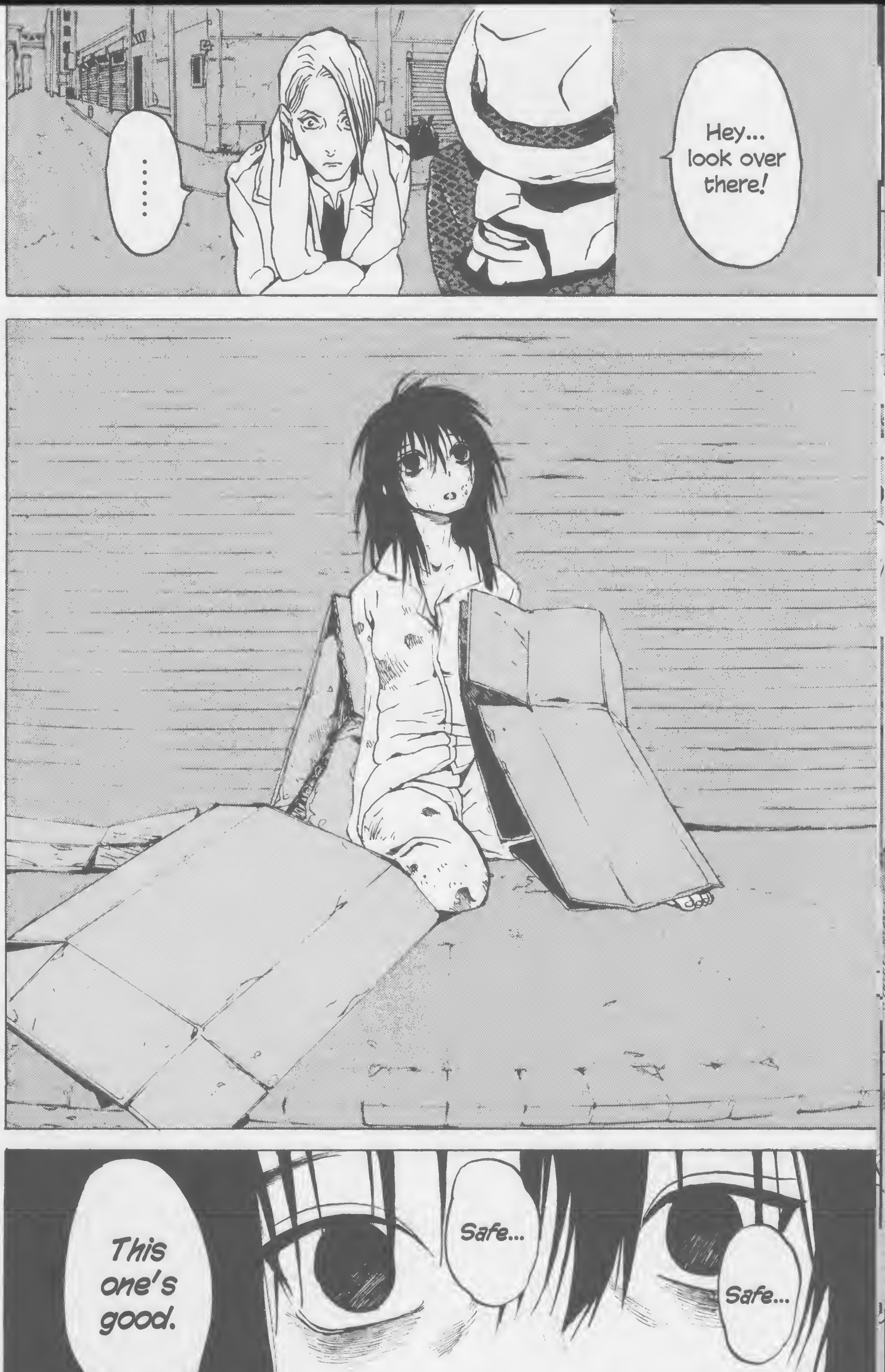

TMP

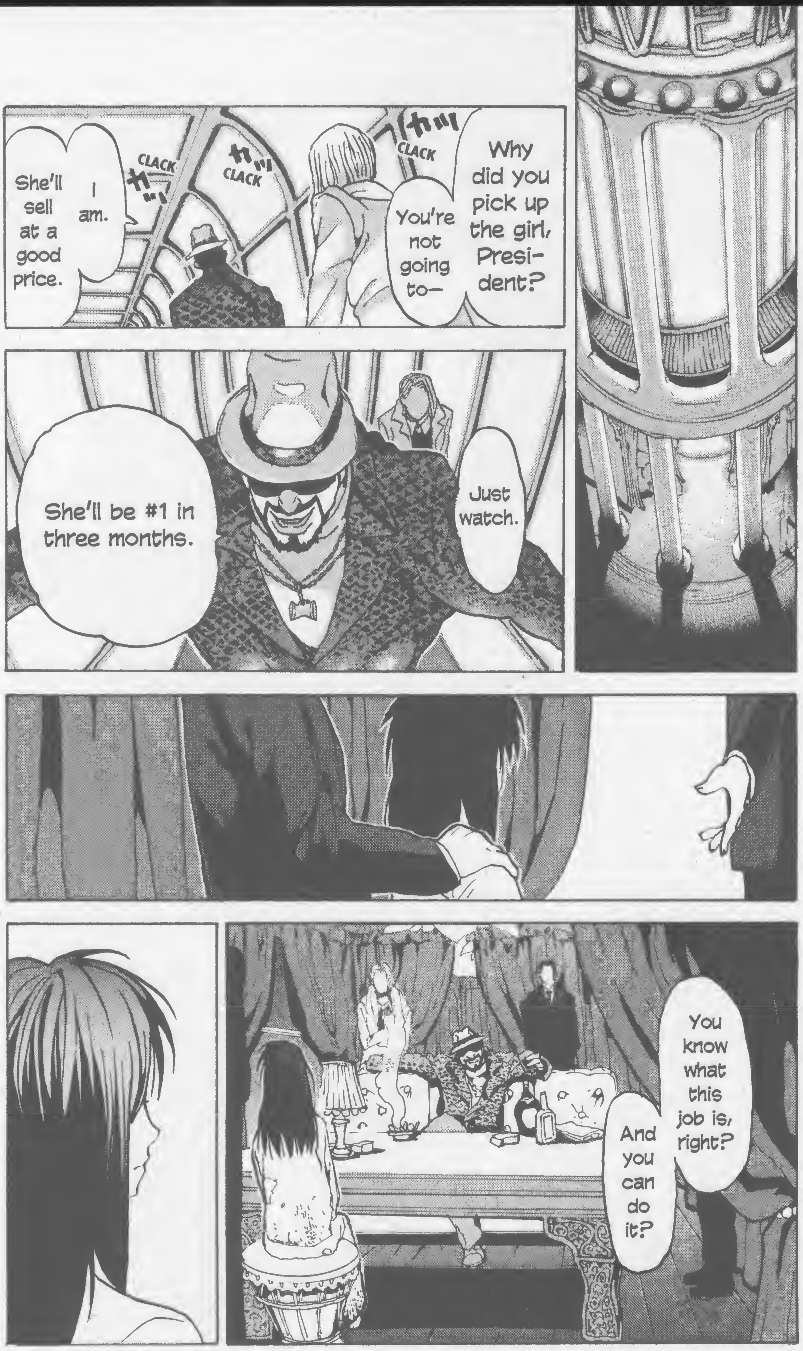

THUMP
I'm sorry!
Hey...
You've got nowhere to go, right?
You really shouldn't have left the facility.
How...
...do you know that?
This girl seduced her own father...
!
I'm sure her mother was shocked...
I know!
And she got her brother to take the fall for her...
I bet he hates her now.
You're terrible.
I know it was my fault!
Leave me alone!!

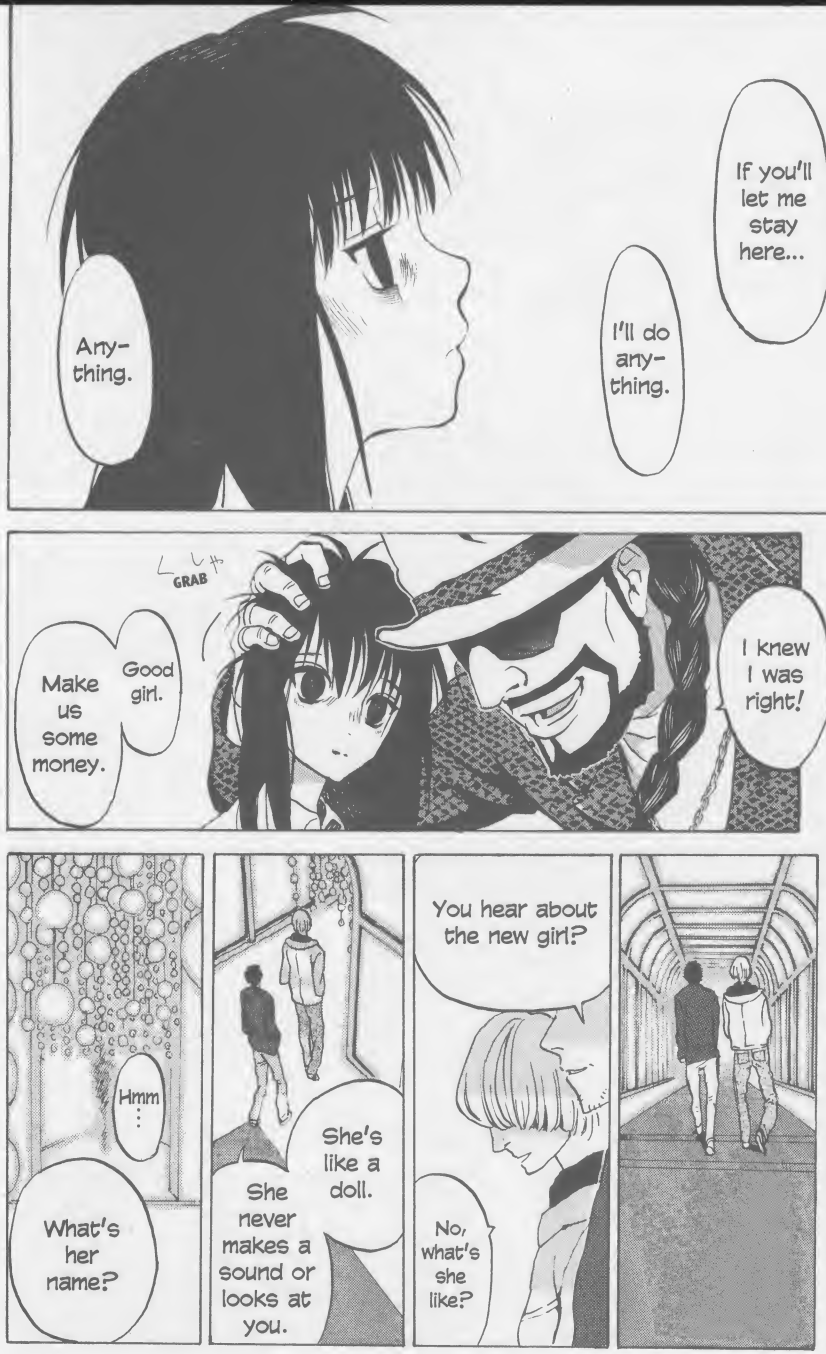

Hey...
...you okay?
Hello?
Open your eyes.
BLINK
........!!
What?
No!
Huh?
......
Calm down!

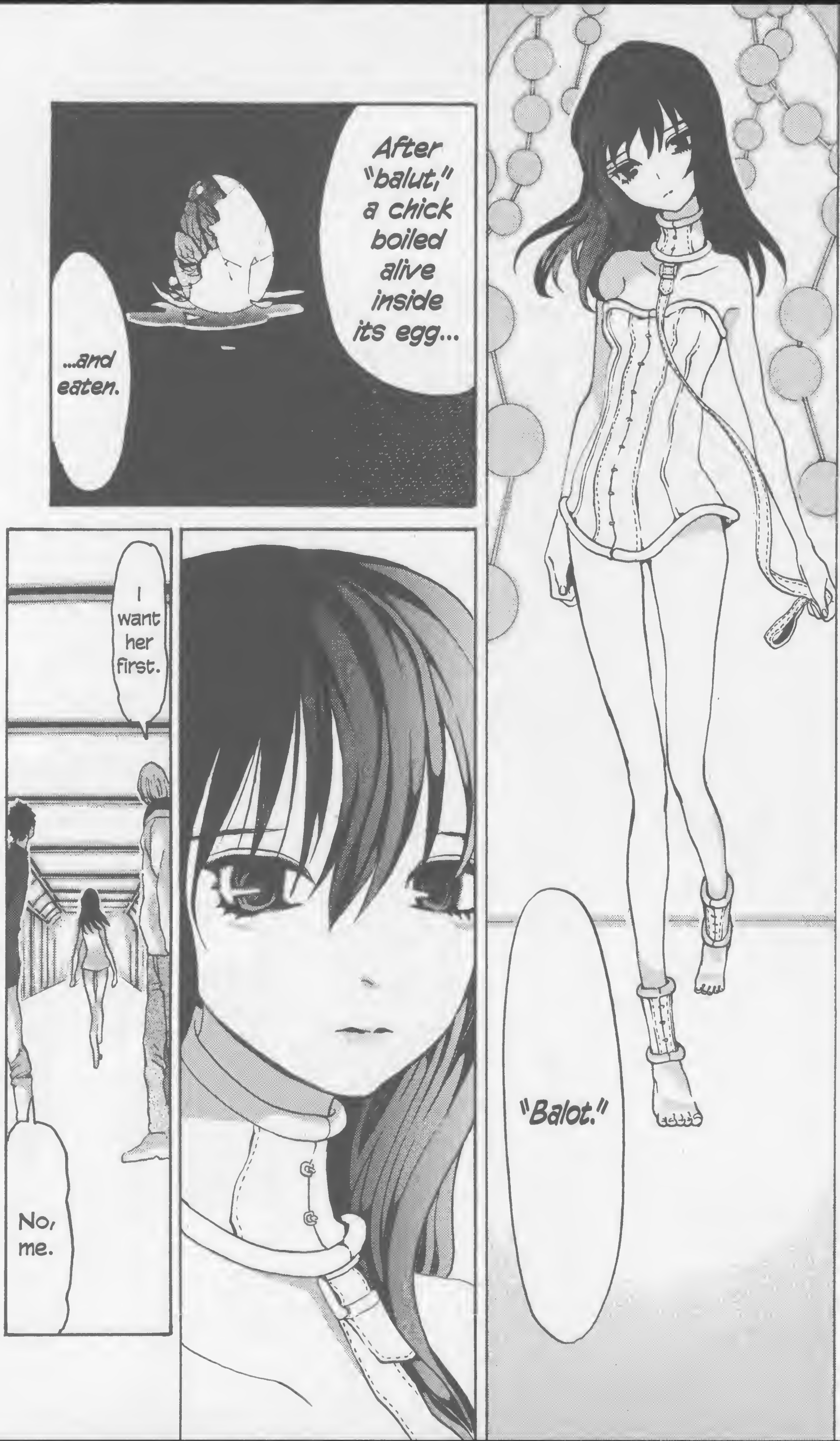

If everyone just left me alone...
...I'd never get hurt.
But how?
I want a shell.
A warm shell that will protect me...
Ohhh! ♡
There's one! Over there!
I finally found one!
Lucky! ♡
VRRRRRRR

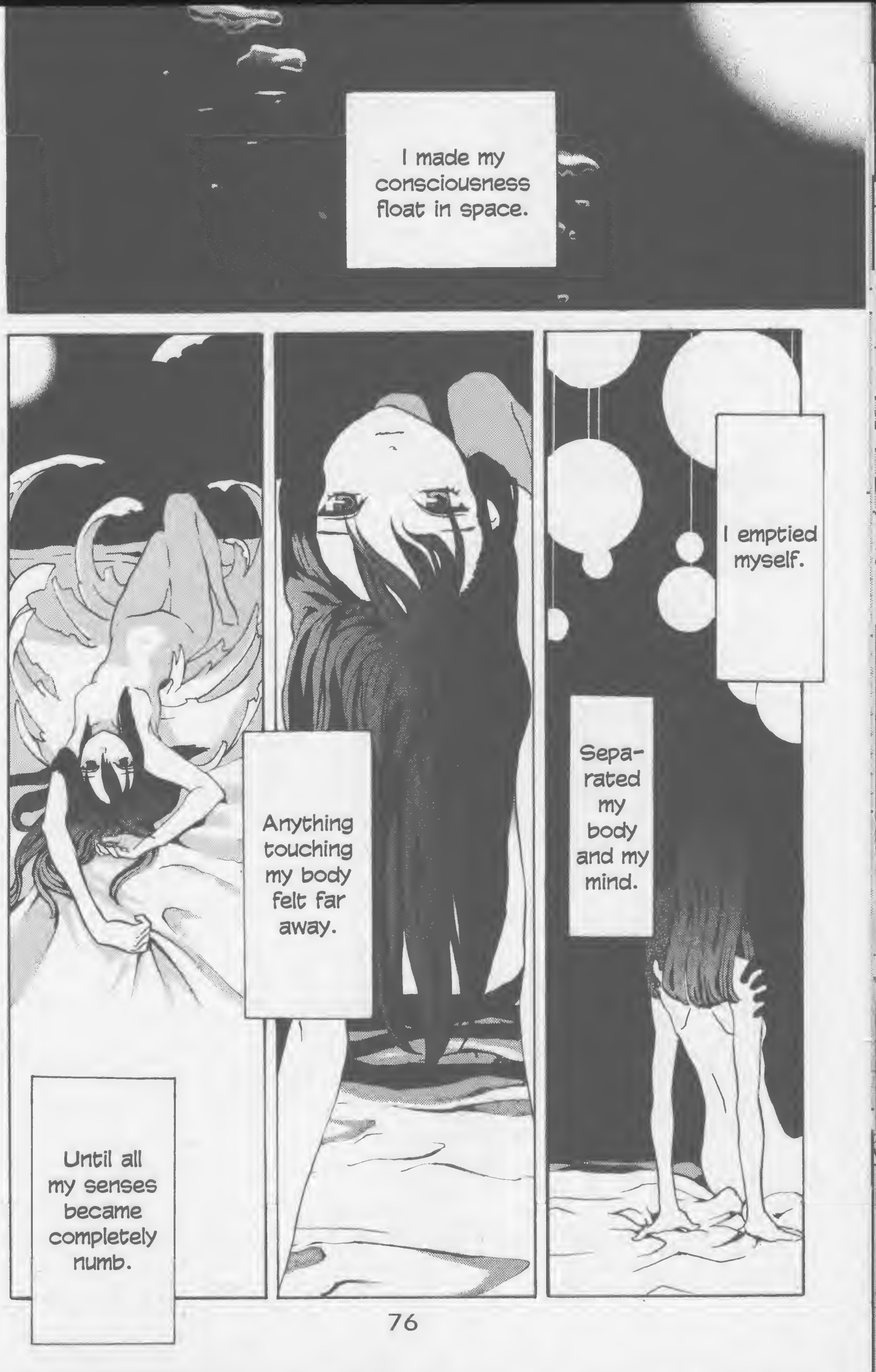

Now I'm safe! ♪
Safe! ♪
COZY
COZY
Safe! ♪
Safe! ♪

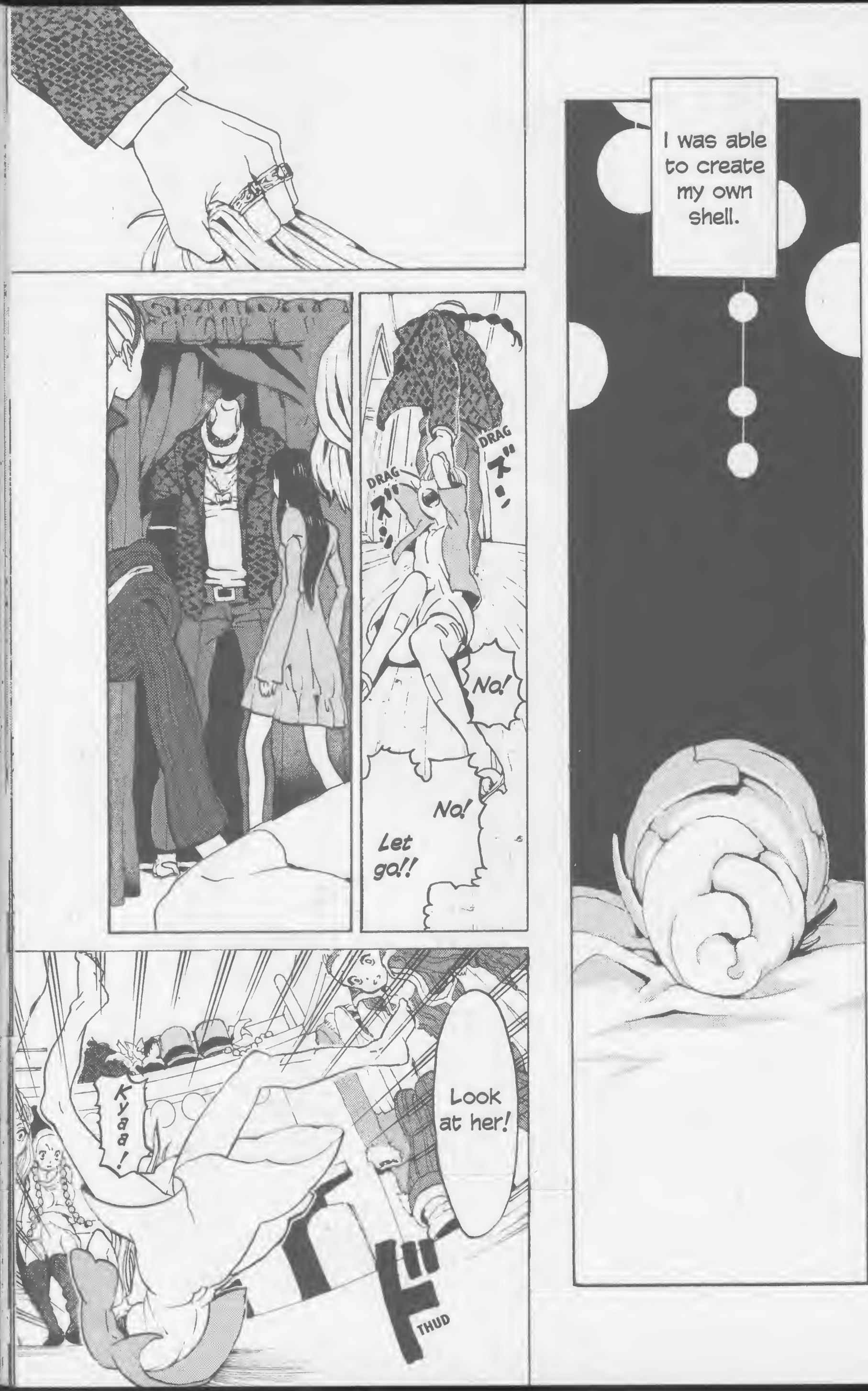

Hey... look over there!
......
Safe...
Safe...
This one's good.

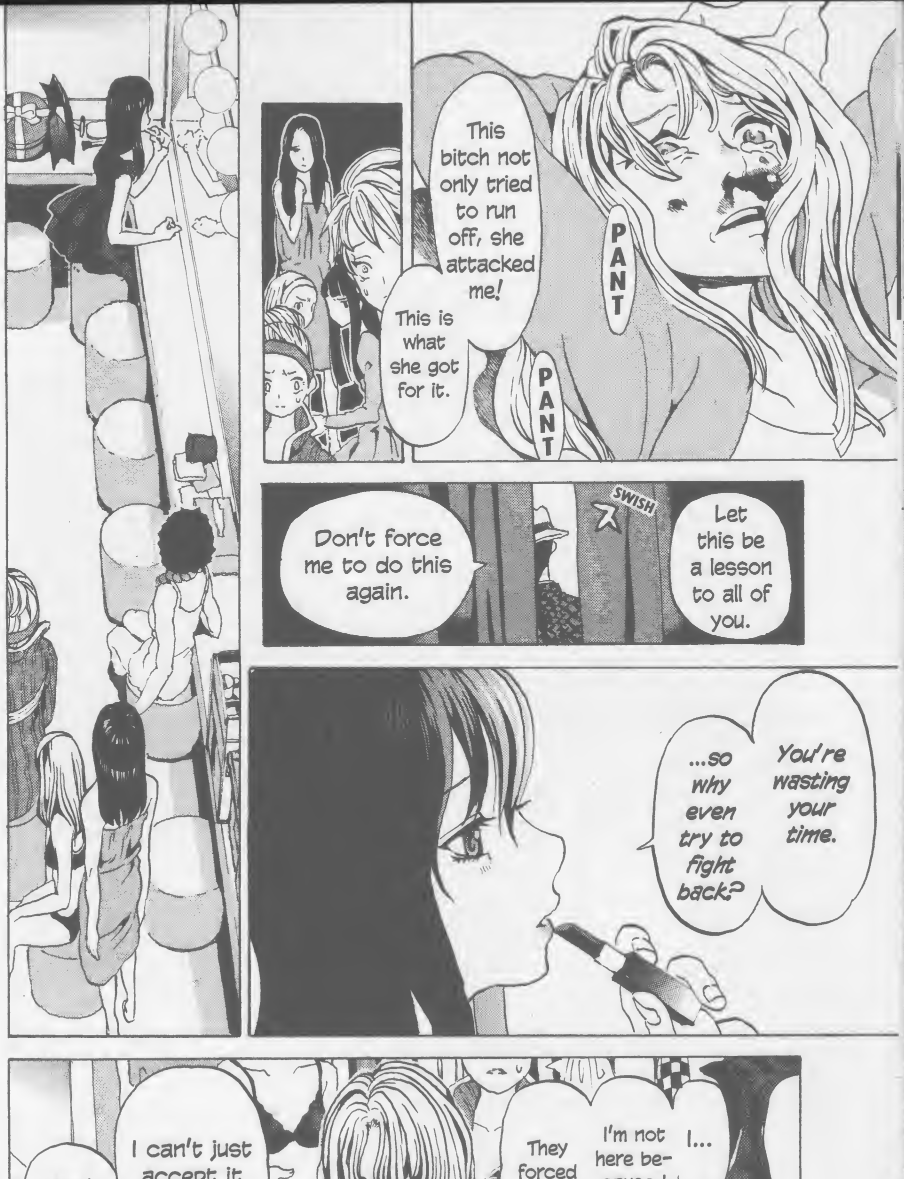

Why did you pick up the girl, President?
You're not going to—
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
I am.
She'll sell at a good price.
Just watch.
She'll be #1 in three months.
You know what this job is, right?
And you can do it?

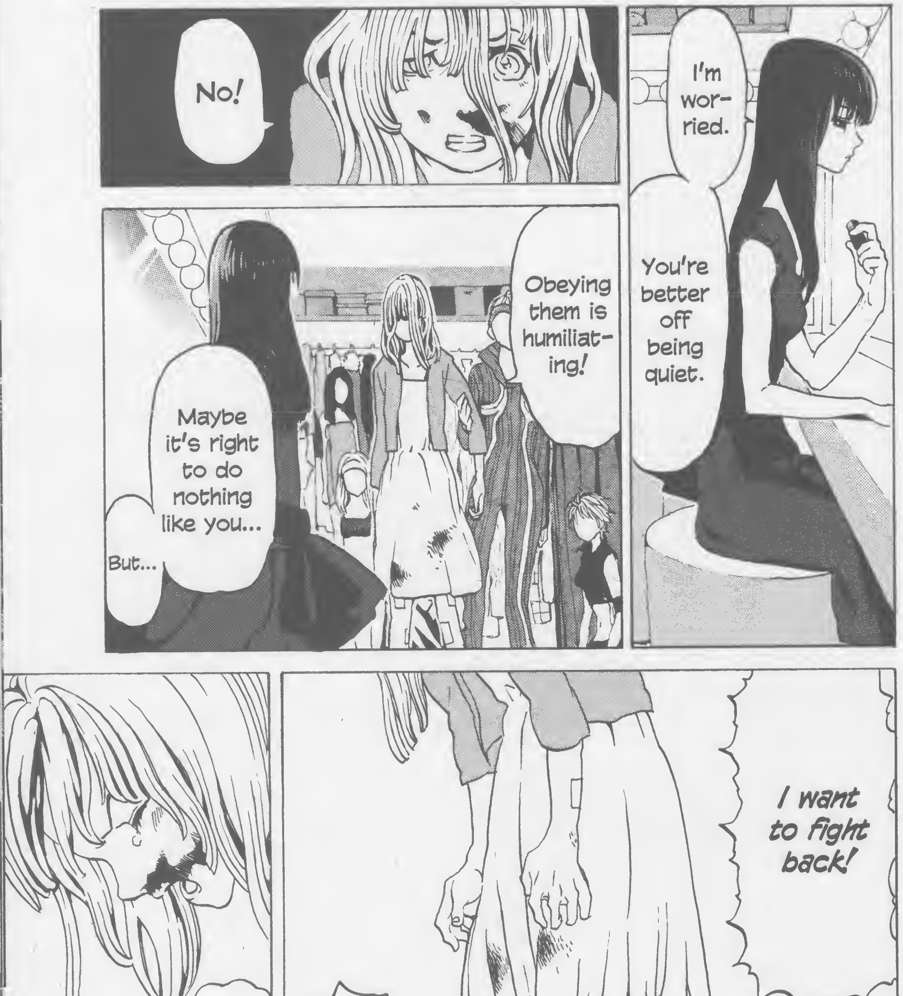

If you'll let me stay here...
I'll do any-thing.
Any-thing.
I knew I was right!
くしゃ GRAB
Good girl.
Make us some money.
You hear about the new girl?
No, what's she like?
She's like a doll.
She never makes a sound or looks at you.
Hmm...
What's her name?

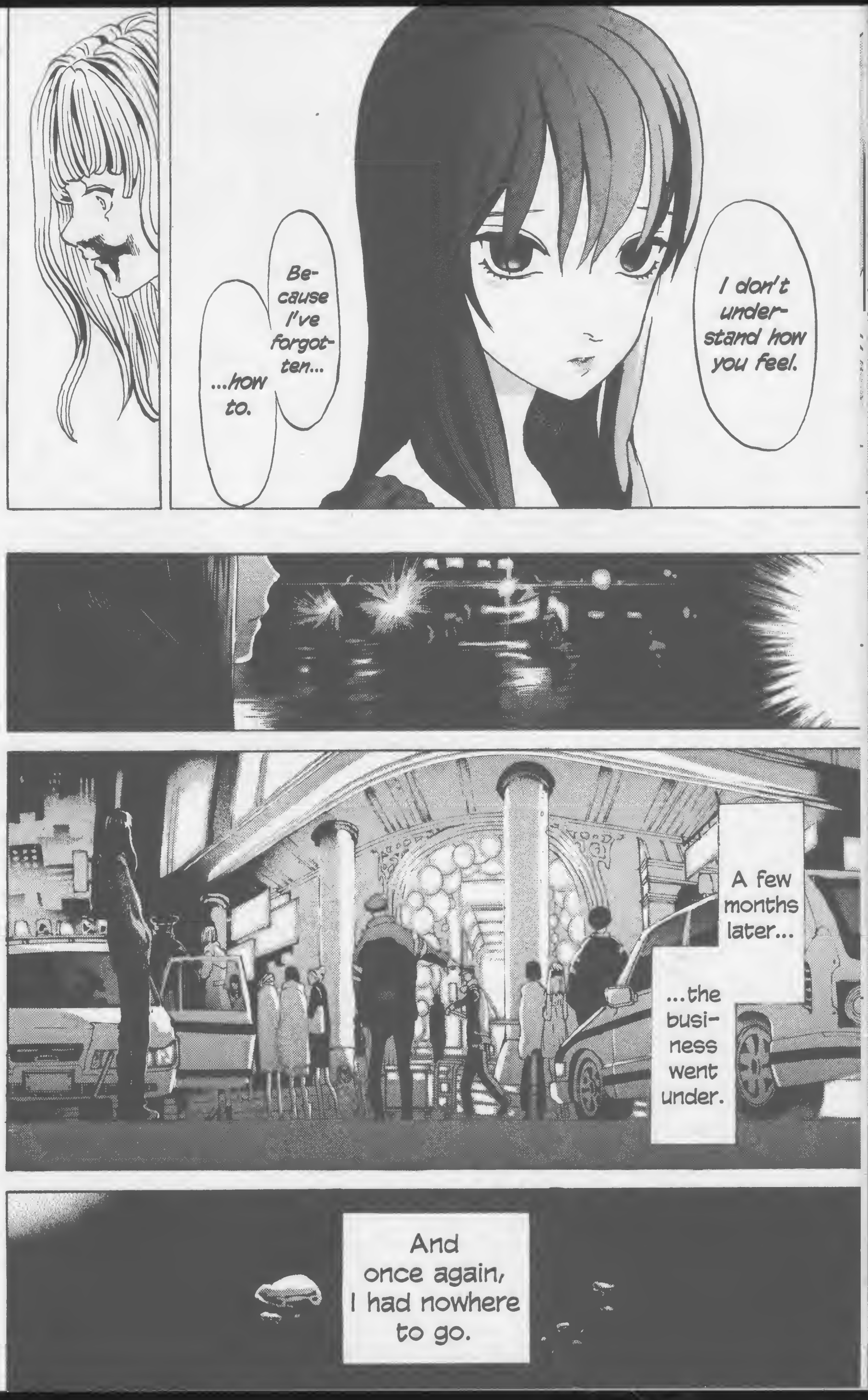

"Balot."
After "balut," a chick boiled alive inside its egg...
...and eaten.
I want her first.
No, me.

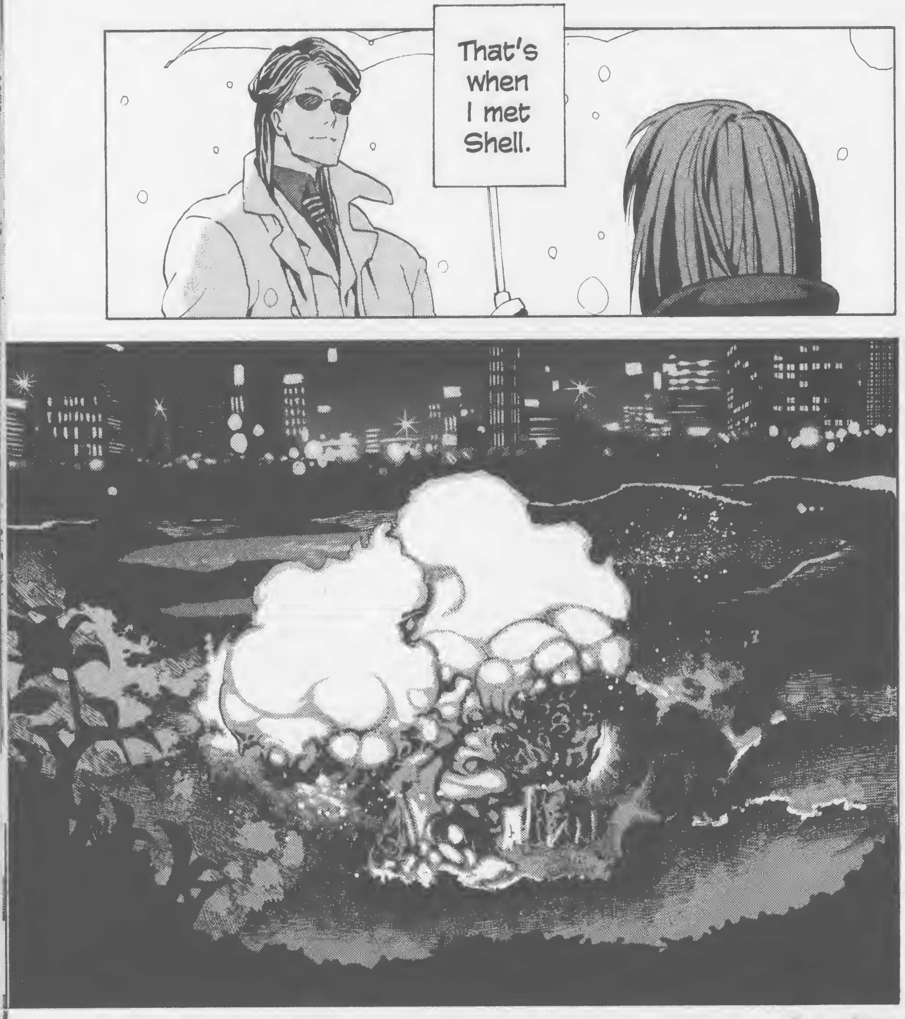

I made my consciousness float in space.
I emptied myself.
Separated my body and my mind.
Anything touching my body felt far away.
Until all my senses became completely numb.

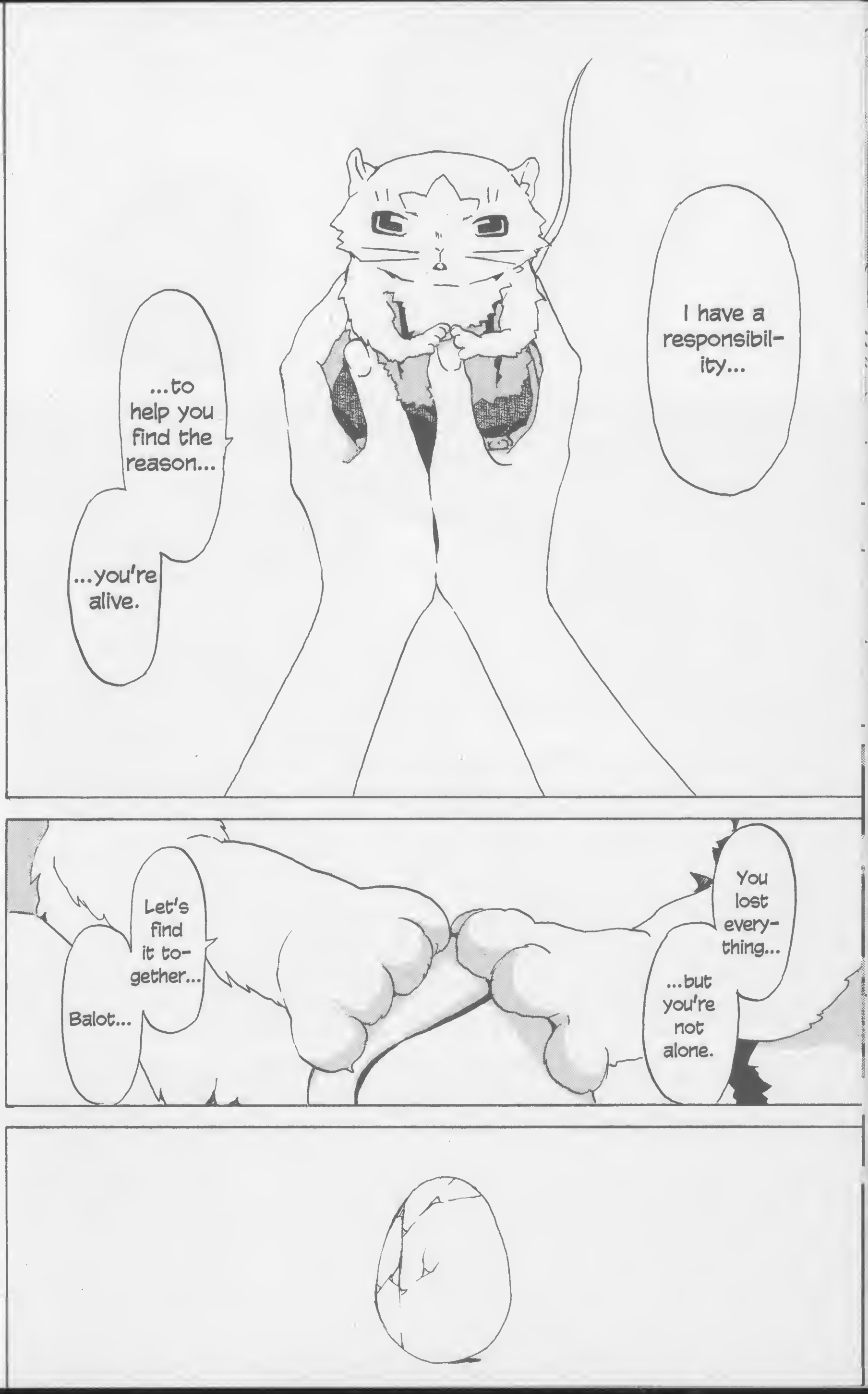

I was able to create my own shell.
DRAG ズッ
DRAG ズッ
No!
No!
Let go!!
Look at her!
Kyaa!
THUD ド

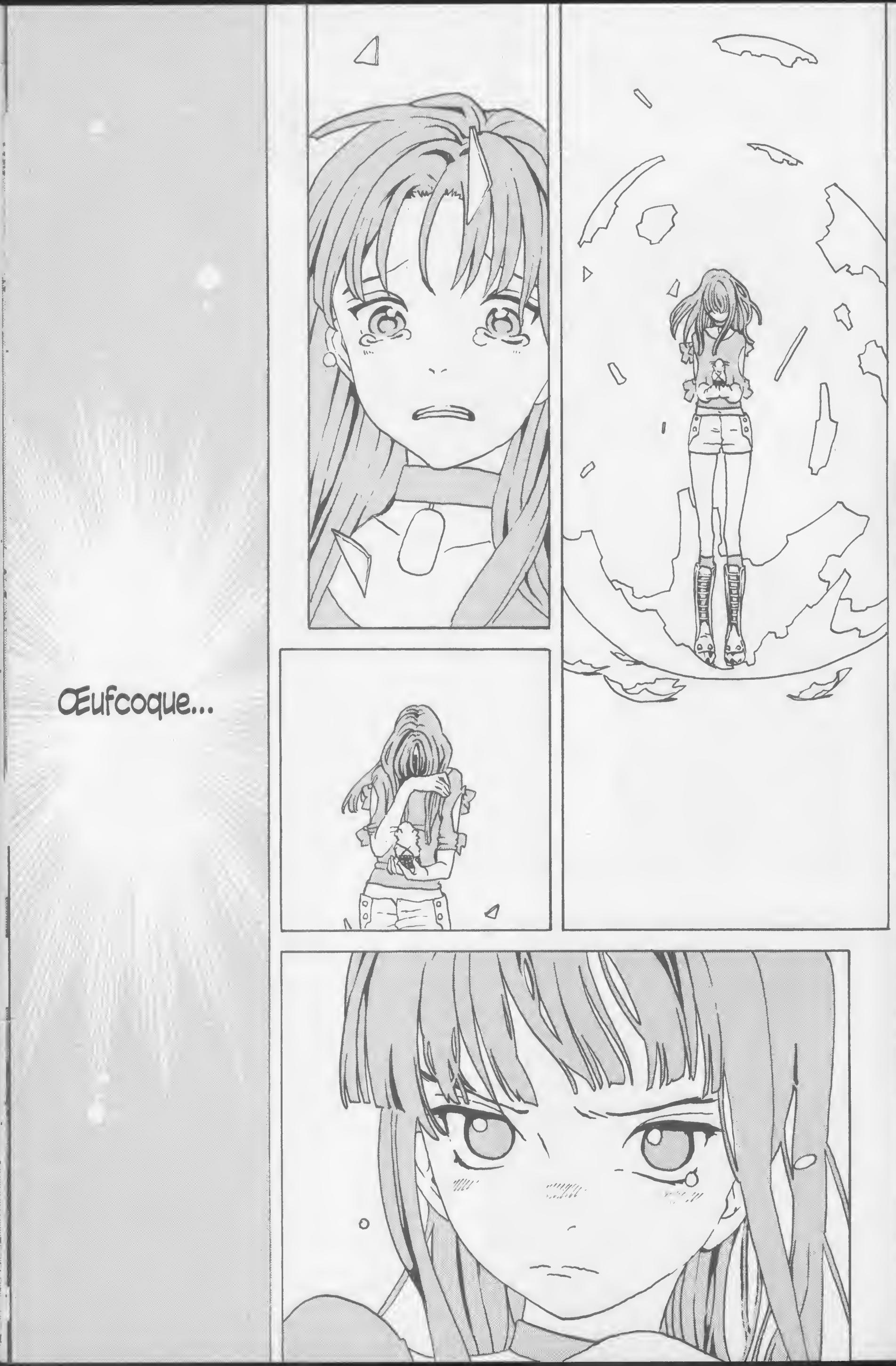

PANT
PANT
This bitch not only tried to run off, she attacked me!
This is what she got for it.
Let this be a lesson to all of you.
SWISH
Don't force me to do this again.
You're wasting your time.
...so why even try to fight back?
I...
I'm not here because I want to be...
They forced me to do this!
I can't just accept it like you...
What's wrong with fighting back?

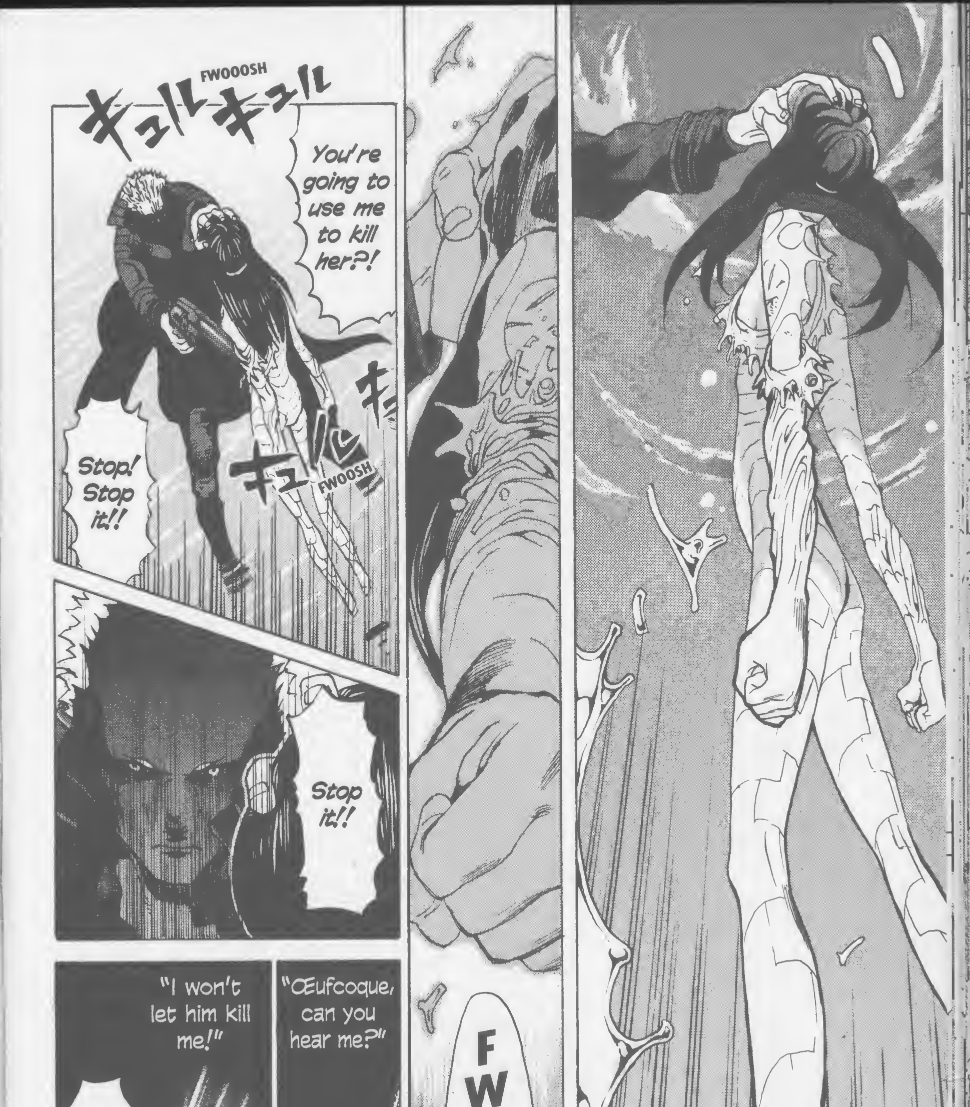

I'm worried.
You're better off being quiet.
No!
Obeying them is humiliating!
Maybe it's right to do nothing like you...
But...
I want to fight back!
I can't stand this!
Don't you wish you could fly...
...so you could get out of here?

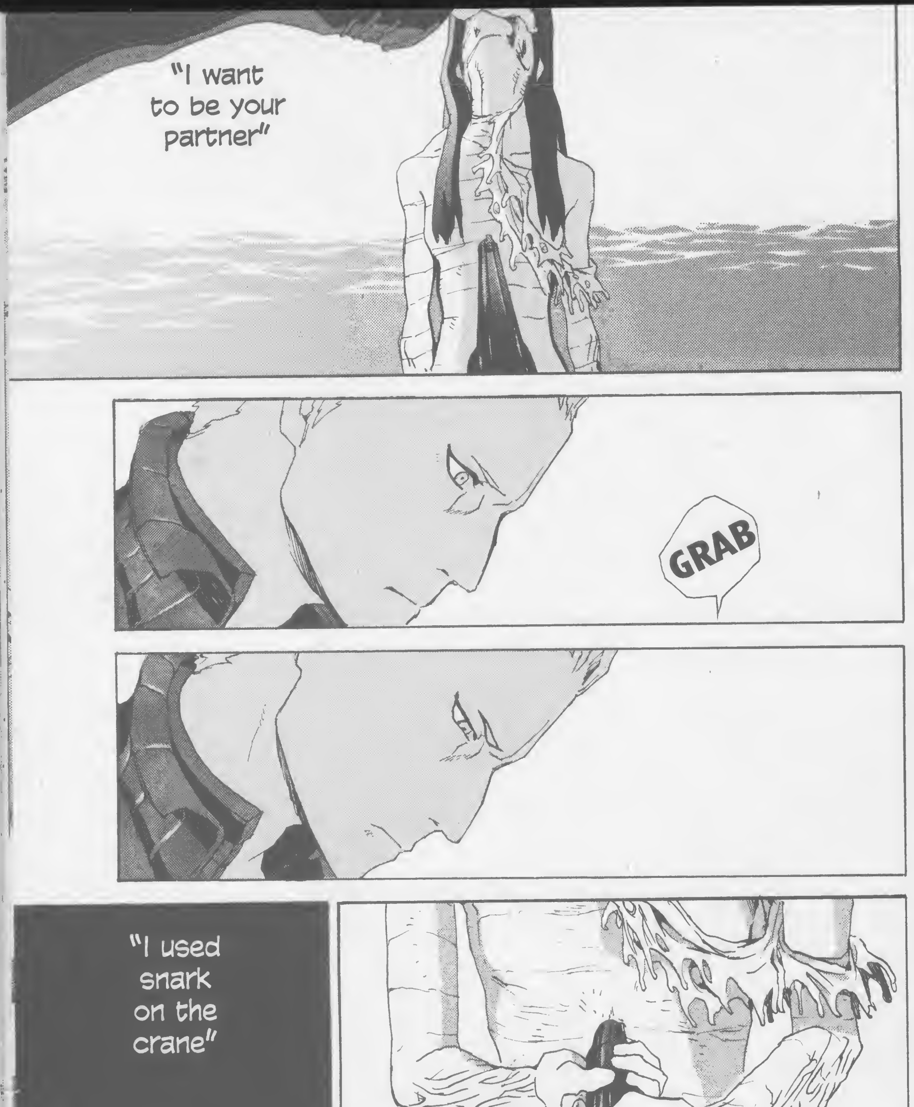

I don't understand how you feel.
Because I've forgotten...
...how to.
A few months later...
...the business went under.
And once again, I had nowhere to go.

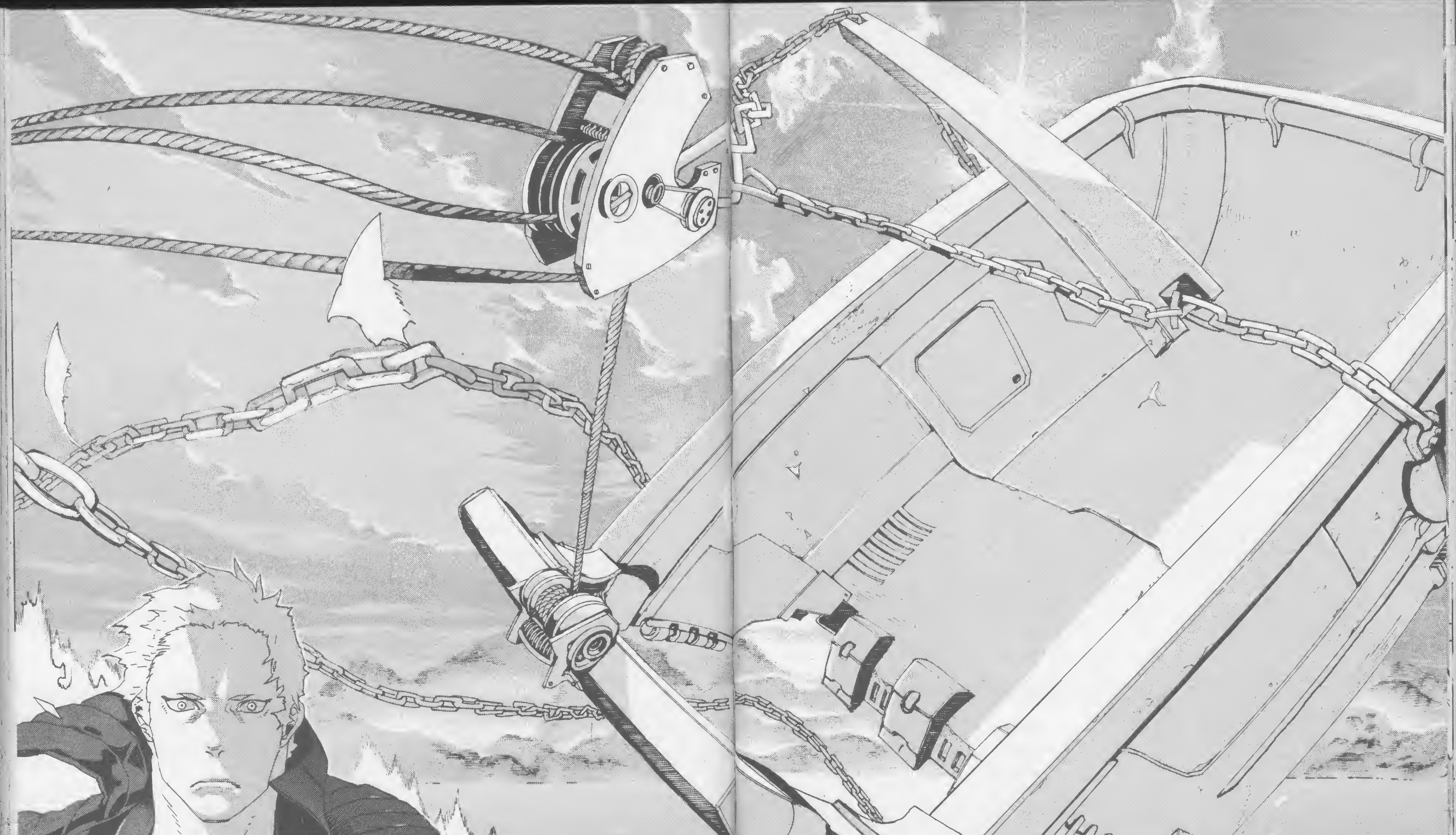

That's when I met Shell.

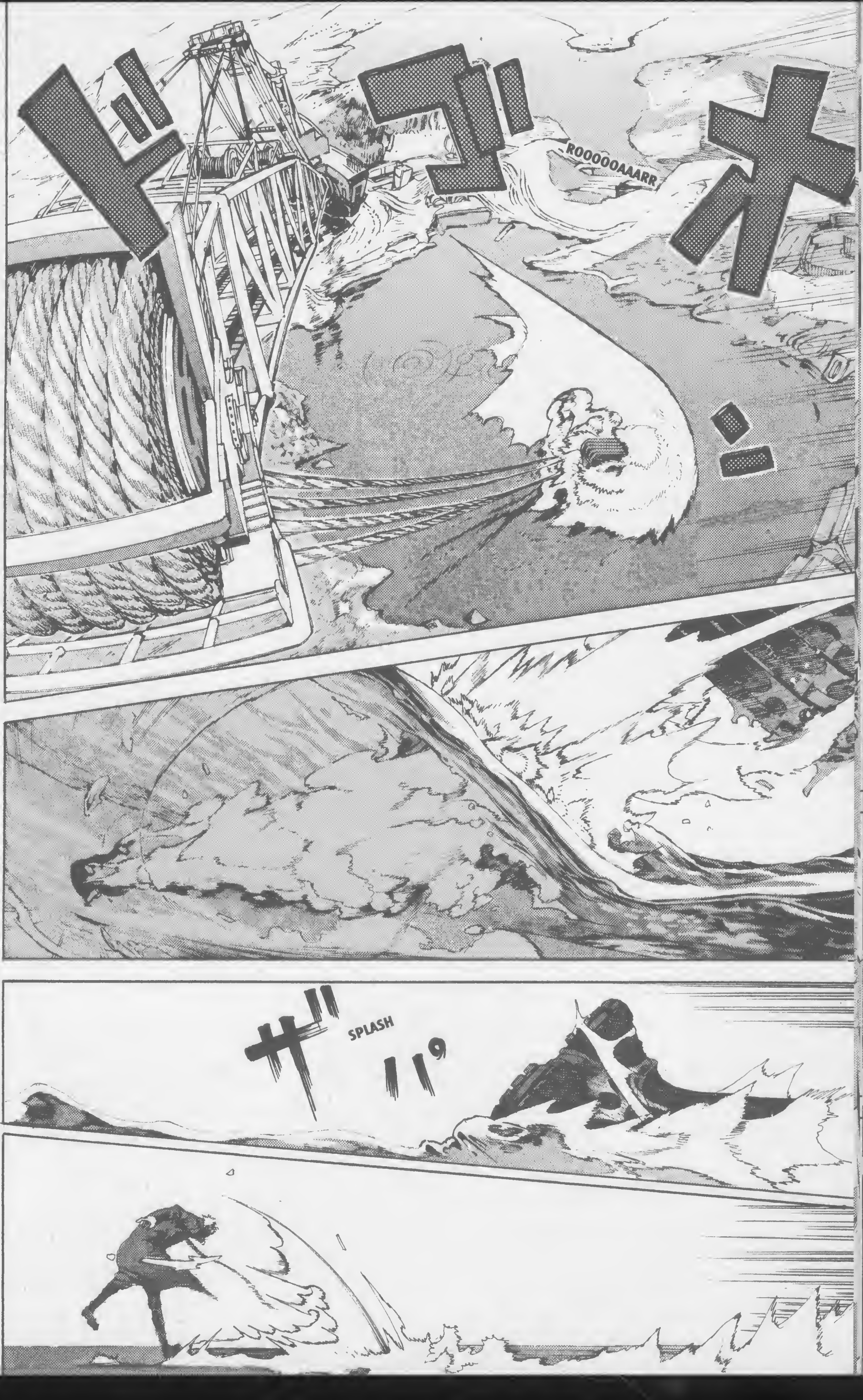

I have a responsibility...
...to help you find the reason...
...you're alive.
You lost everything...
...but you're not alone.
Let's find it together...
Balot...


Œufcoque...

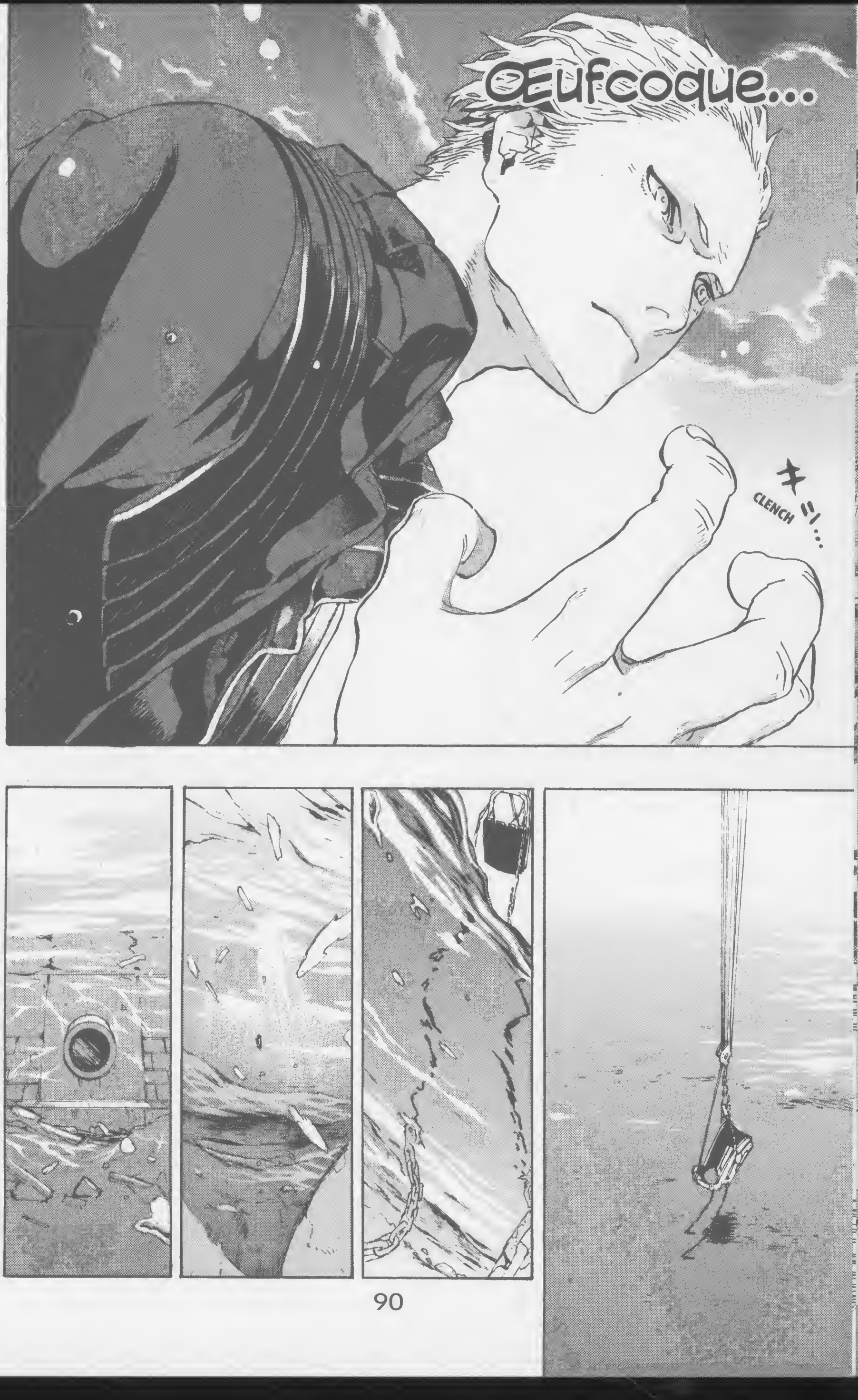

FWOOOOOSH
FWOOOSH
キュルキュル
You're going to use me to kill her?!
キュル
FWOOSH
Stop! Stop it!!
Stop it!!
"Œufcoque, can you hear me?"
"I won't let him kill me!"
!

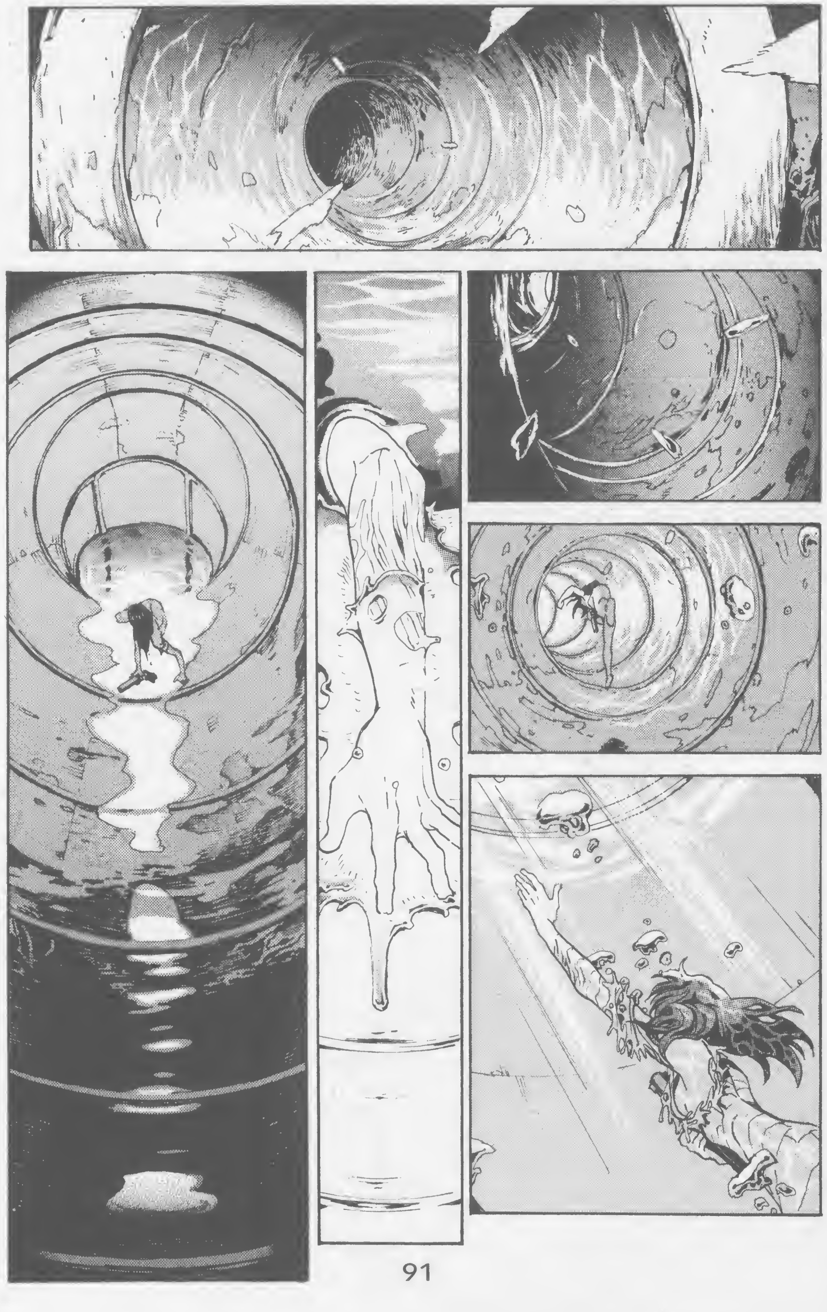

"I want to be your partner"
GRAB
"I used snark on the crane"

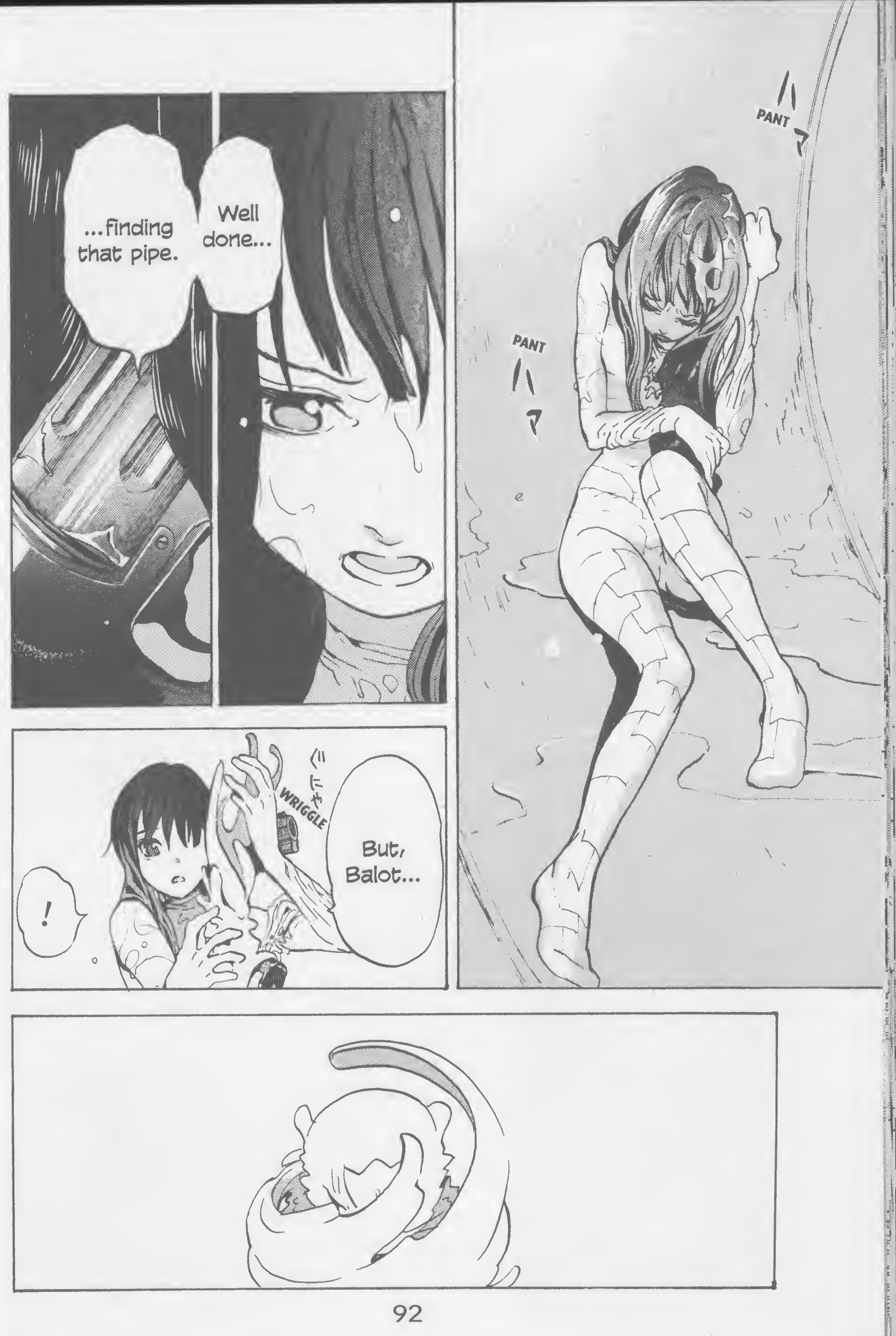


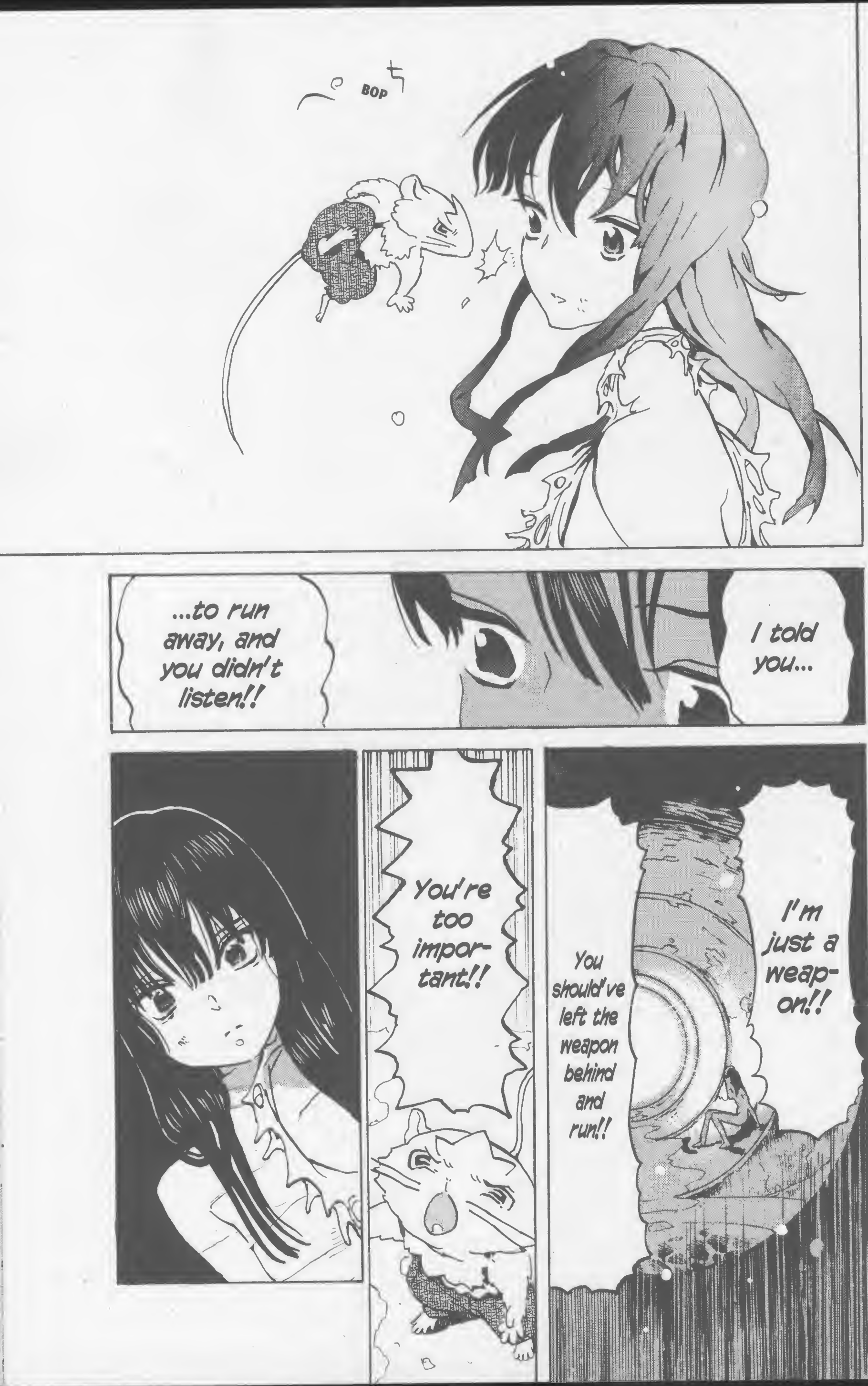

ドゴォ
ROOOOOAAARR
ザバ
SPLASH

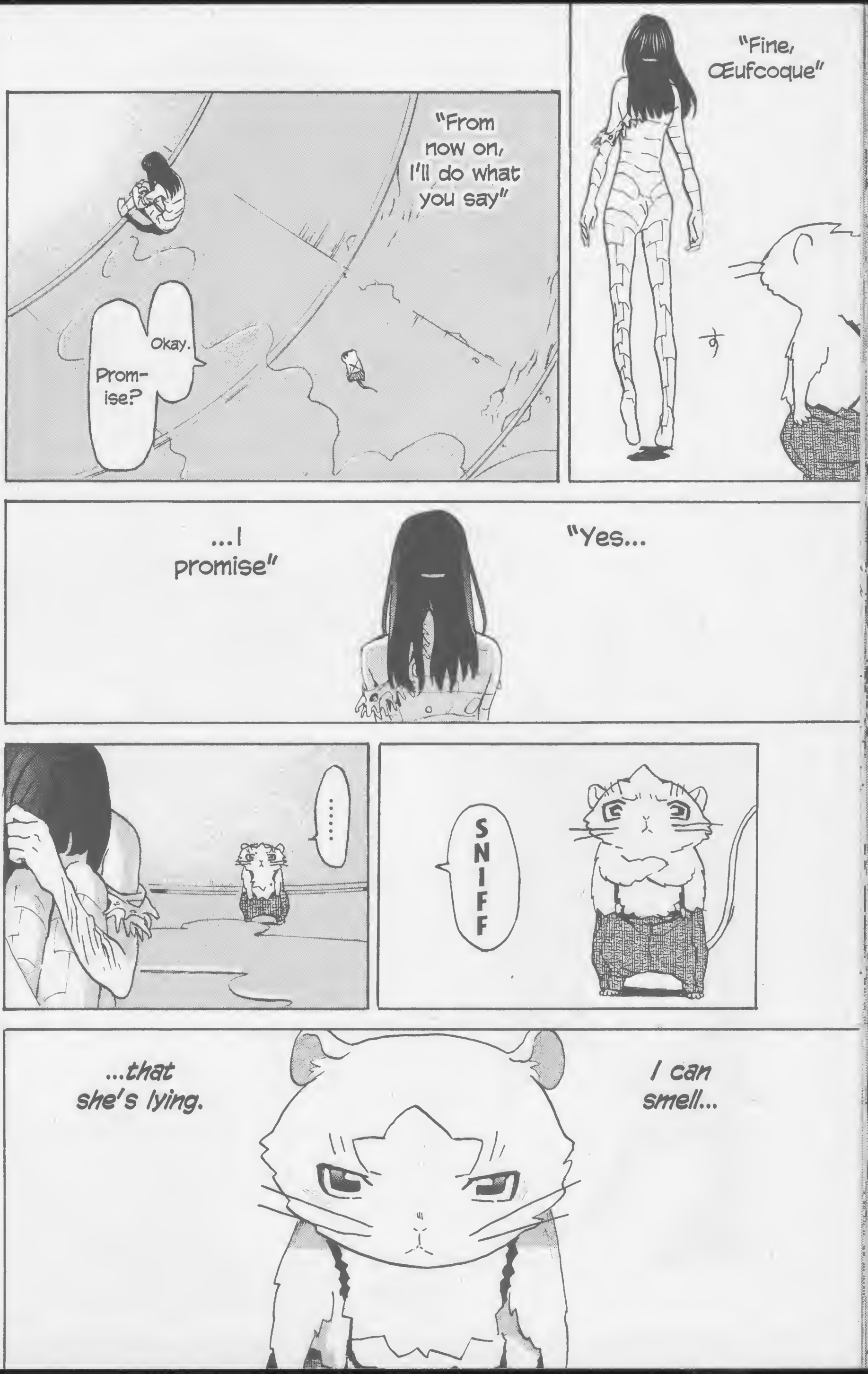
ビタ
THUNK
ゴゴ
CREAK
CREAK
She's gone...
パパ
WIPE

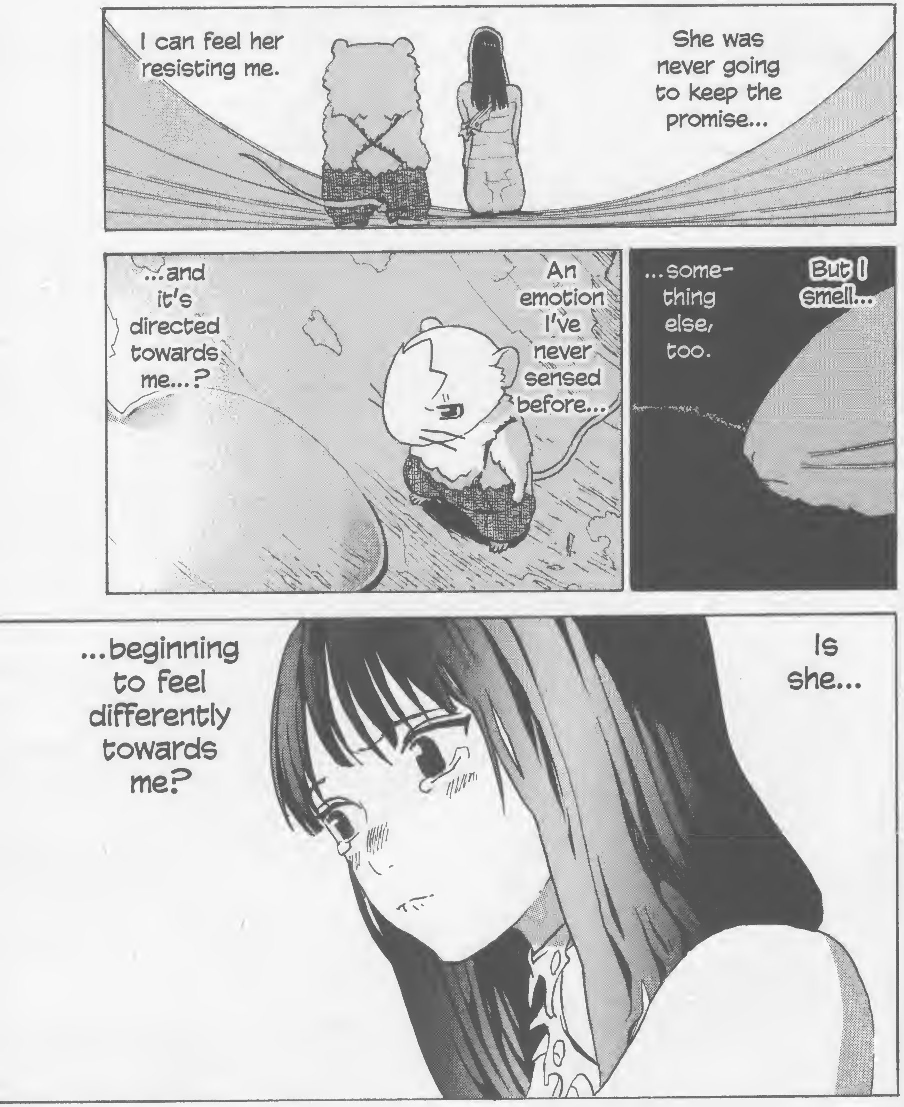

Œufcoque...
キッ...
CLENCH

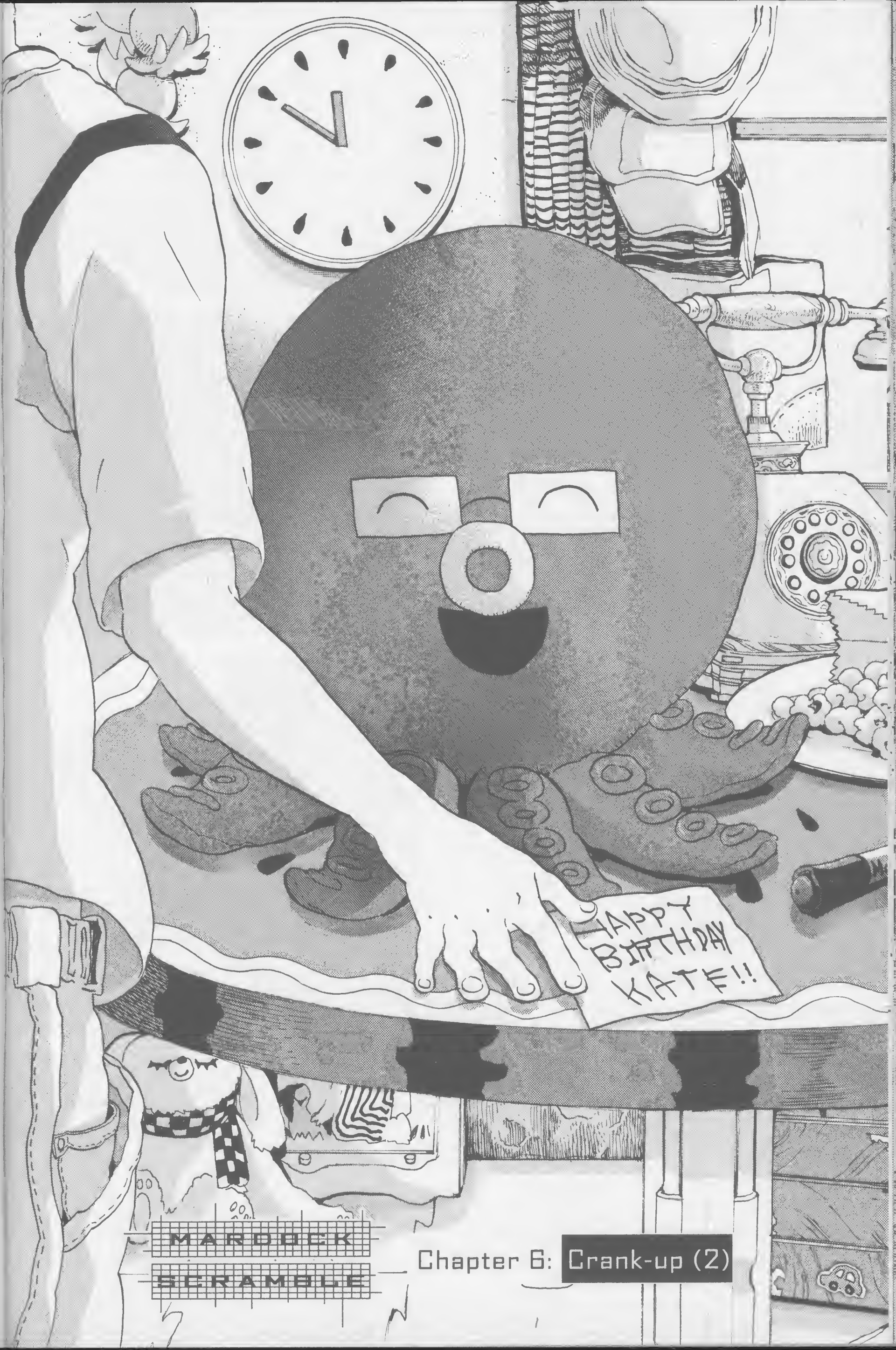



ハ
PANT
マ
PANT
ハ
マ
Well done...
...finding that pipe.
But, Balot...
ぐにゃ
WRIGGLE
!

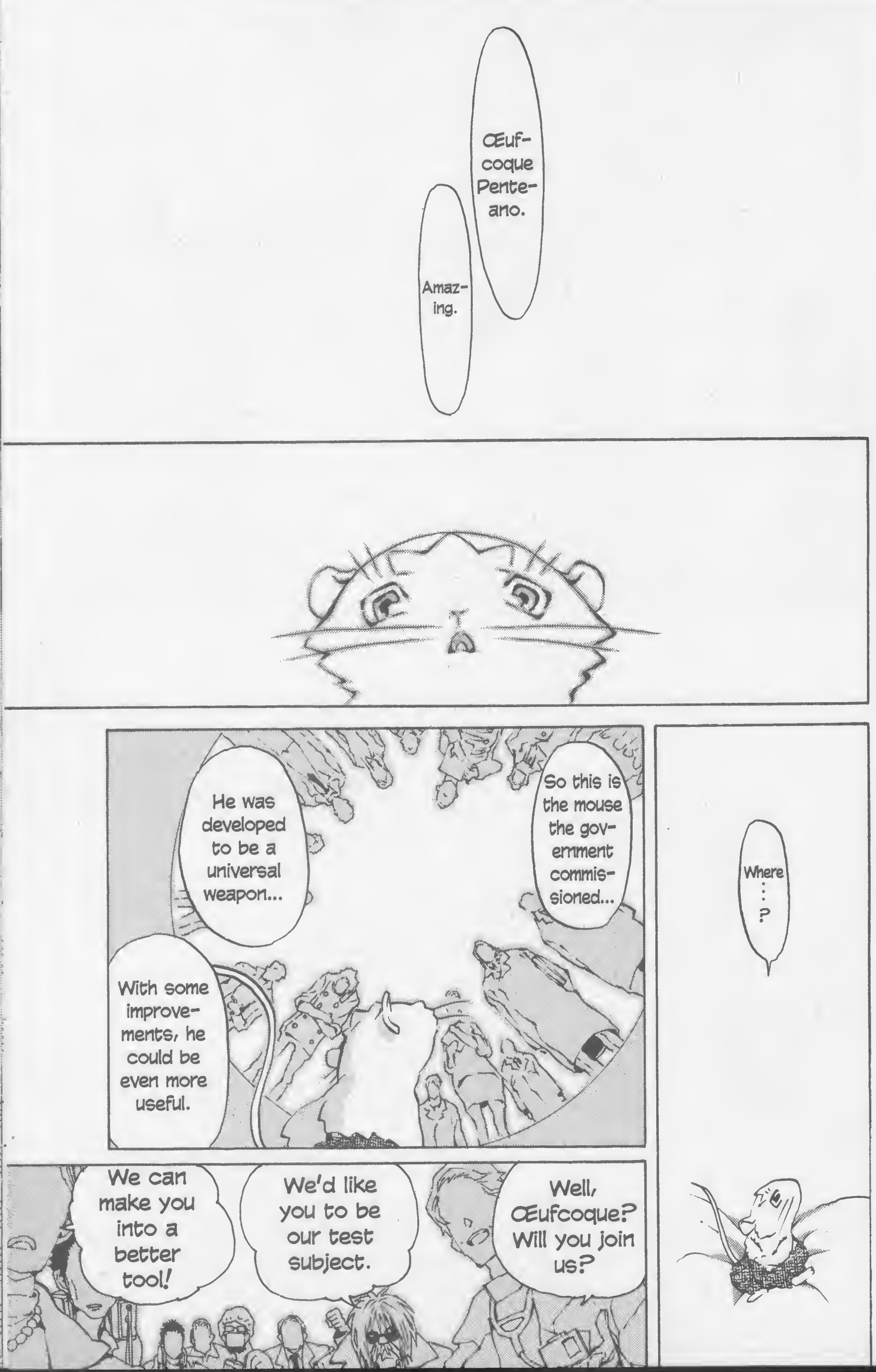

ぺ
BOP
ち
I told you...
...to run away, and you didn't listen!!
I'm just a weapon!!
You should've left the weapon behind and run!!
You're too important!!

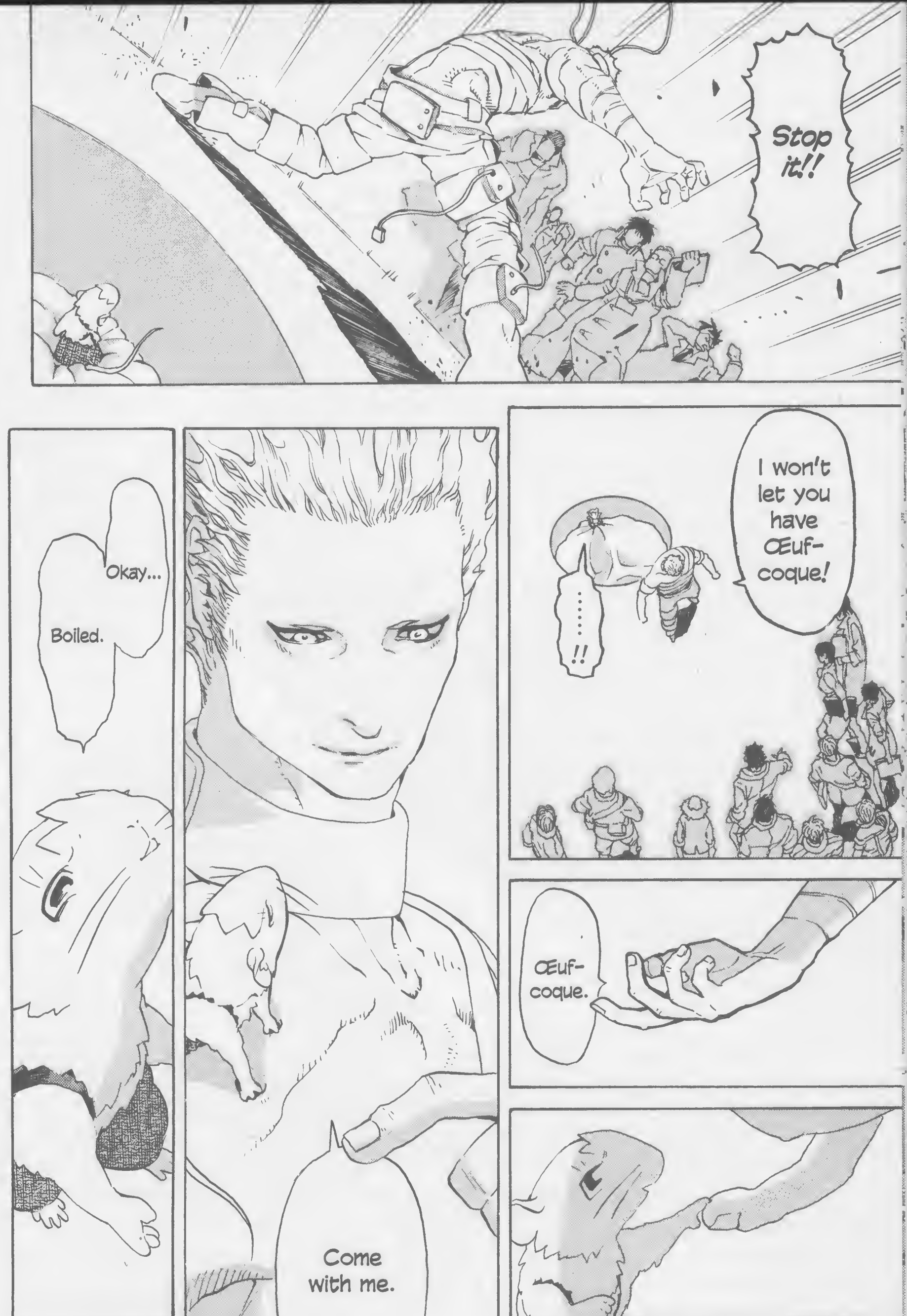

"Fine, Œufcoque"
す
"From now on, I'll do what you say"
Okay.
Promise?
"Yes...
...I promise"
......
SNIFF
I can smell...
...that she's lying.

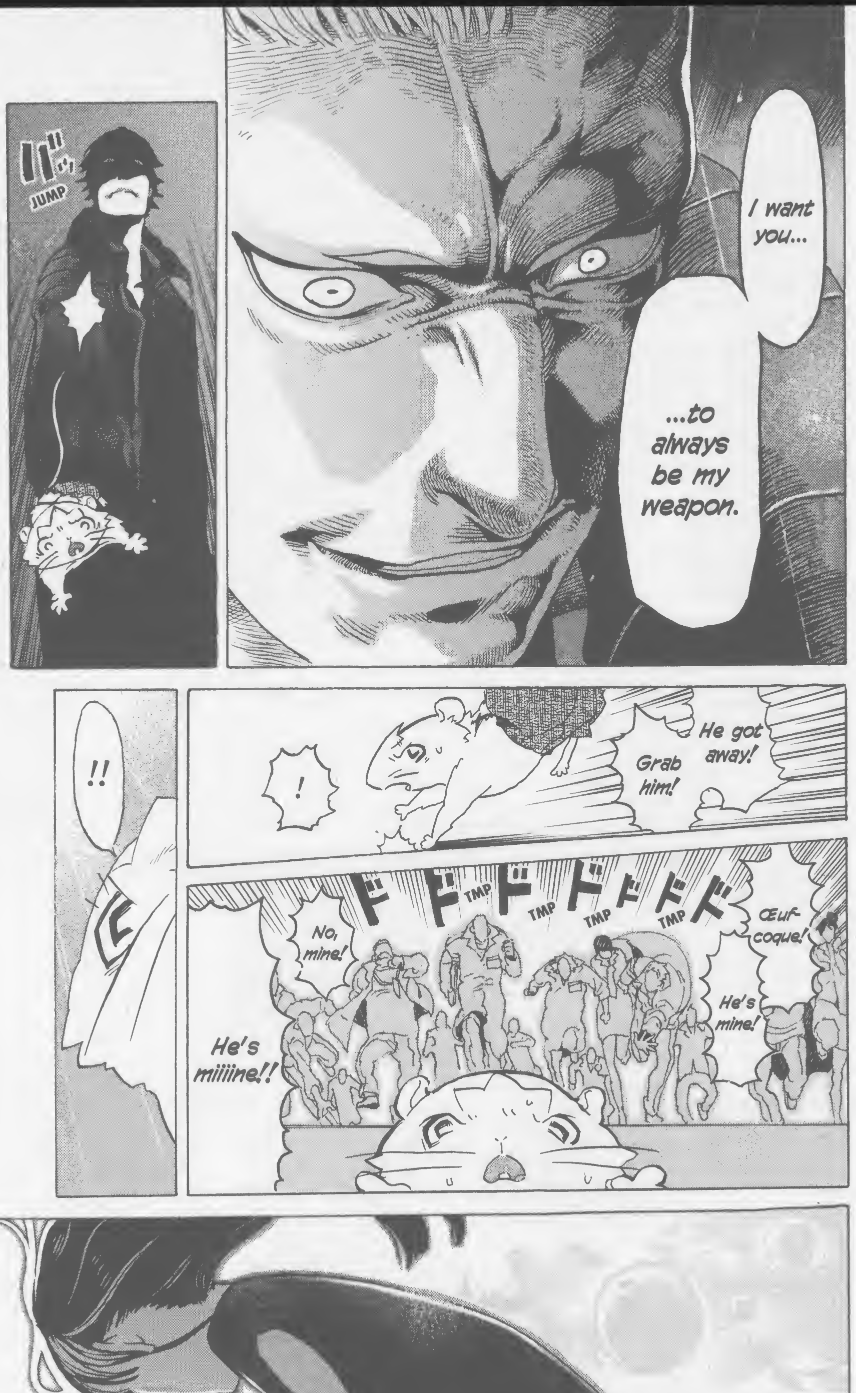

She was never going to keep the promise...
I can feel her resisting me.
But I smell...
...something else, too.
An emotion I've never sensed before...
...and it's directed towards me...?
Is she...
...beginning to feel differently towards me?

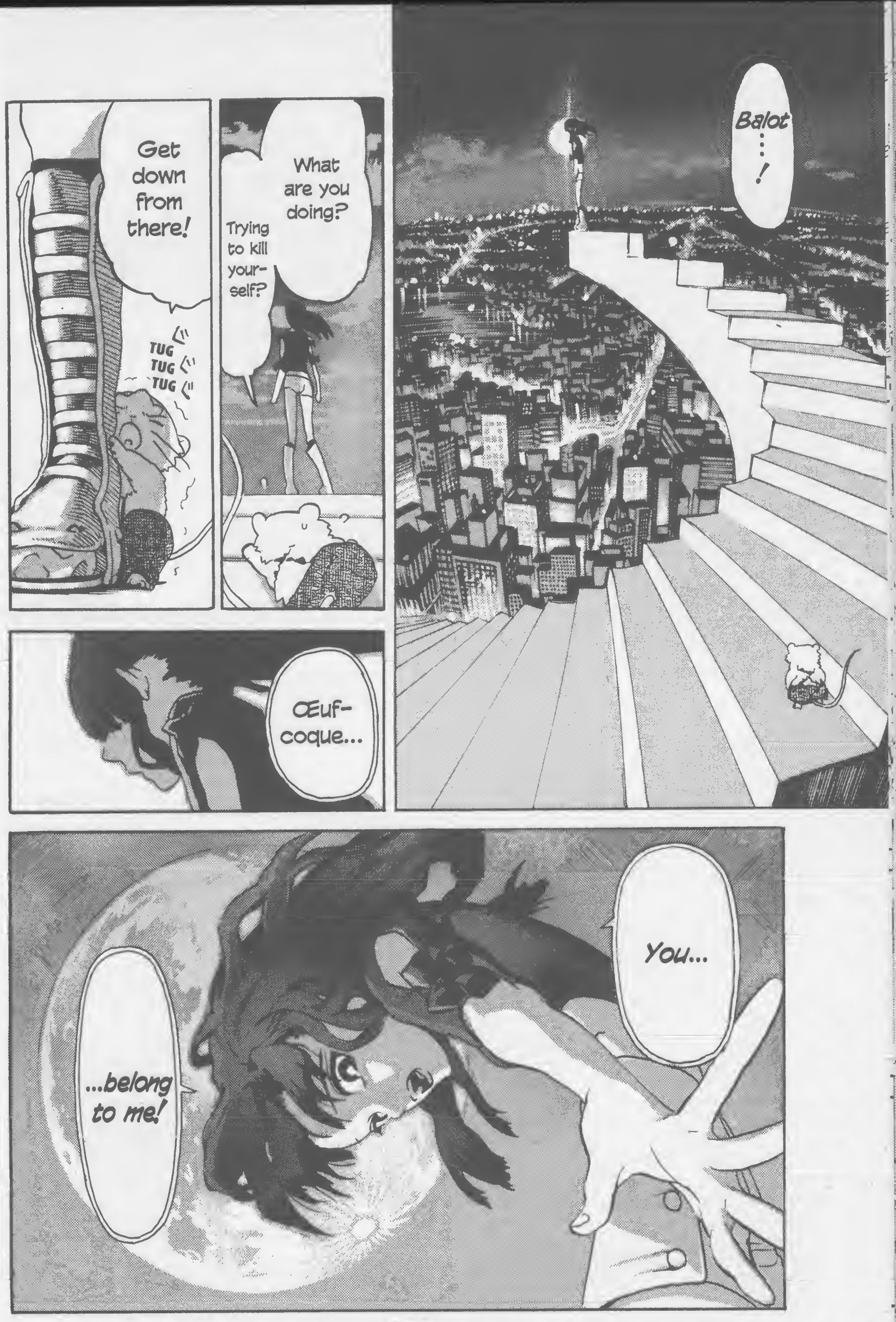

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATE!!
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

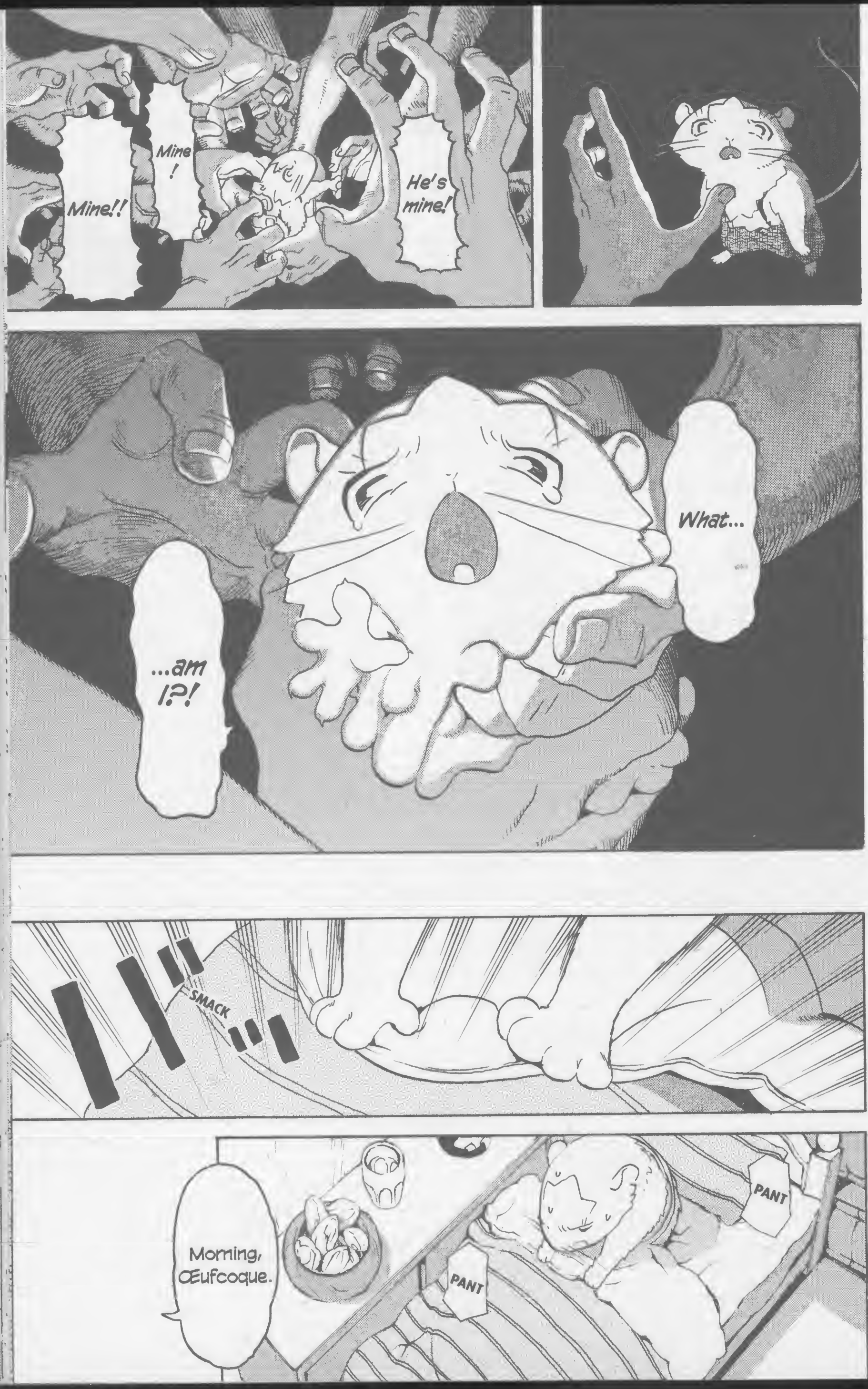
Chapter 6: Crank-up (2)

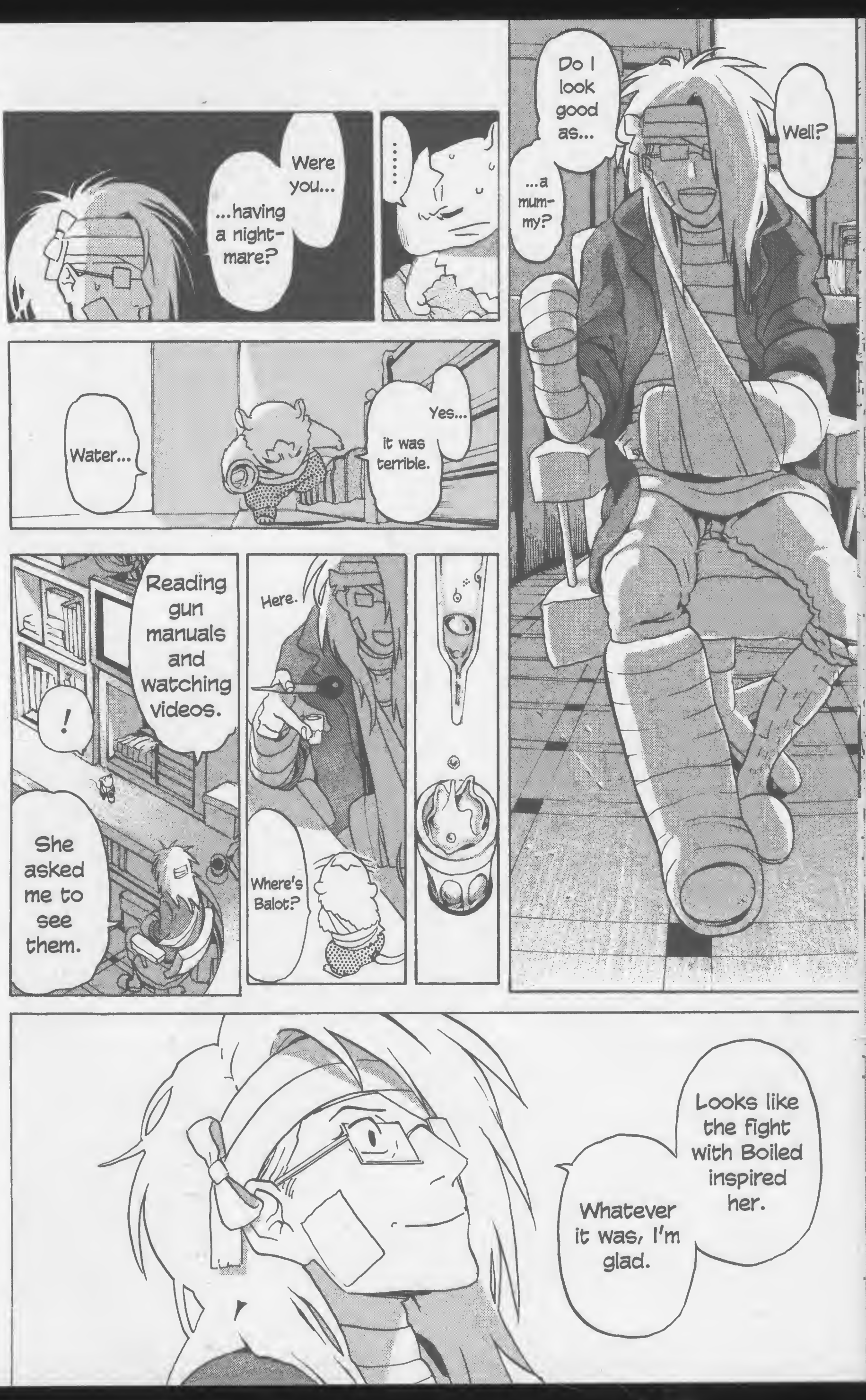

Œufcoque Penteano.
Amazing.
Where...?
So this is the mouse the government commissioned...
He was developed to be a universal weapon...
With some improvements, he could be even more useful.
Well, Œufcoque? Will you join us?
We'd like you to be our test subject.
We can make you into a better tool!

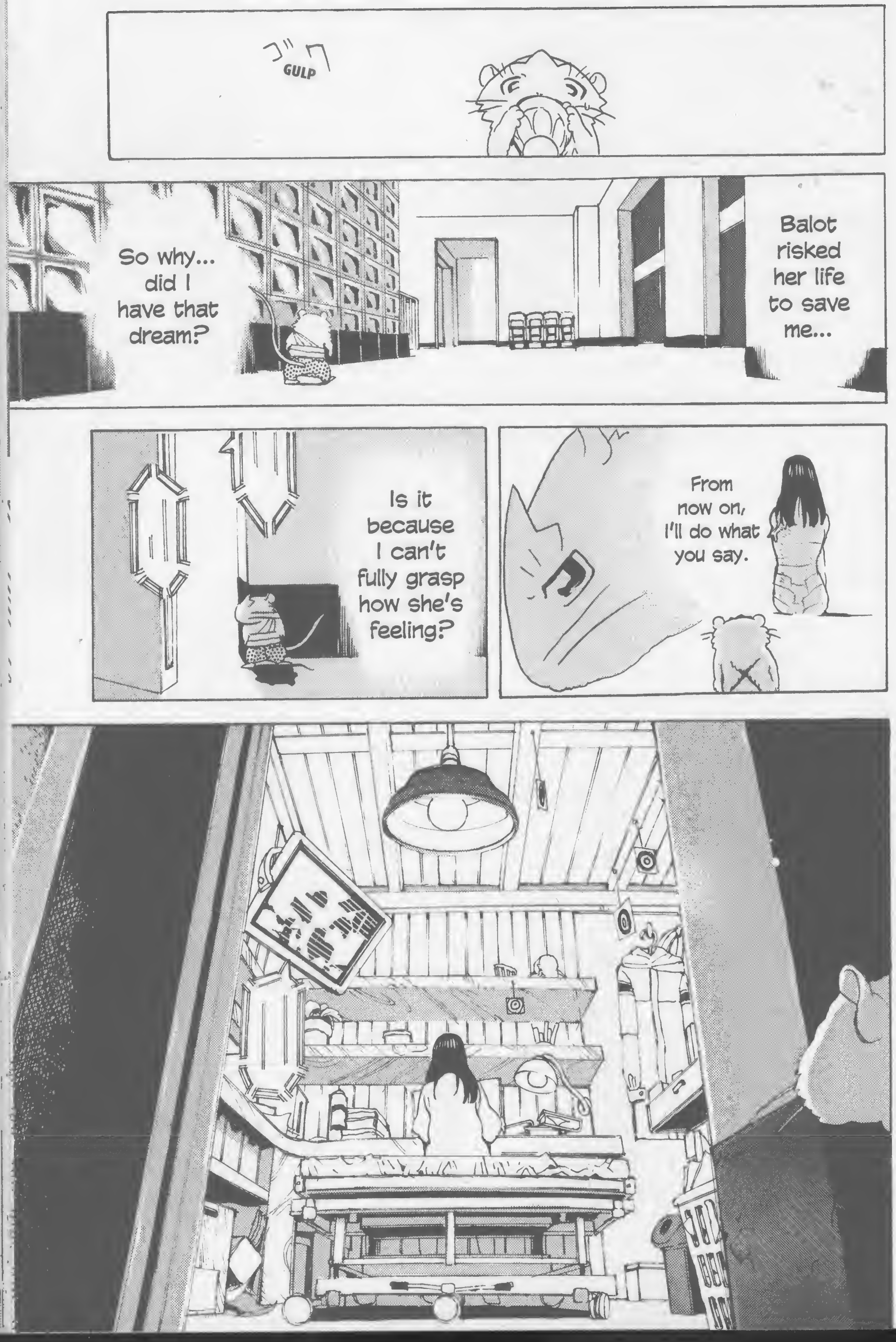

Stop it!!
I won't let you have Œuf-coque!
......!!
Œuf-coque.
Come with me.
Okay...
Boiled.

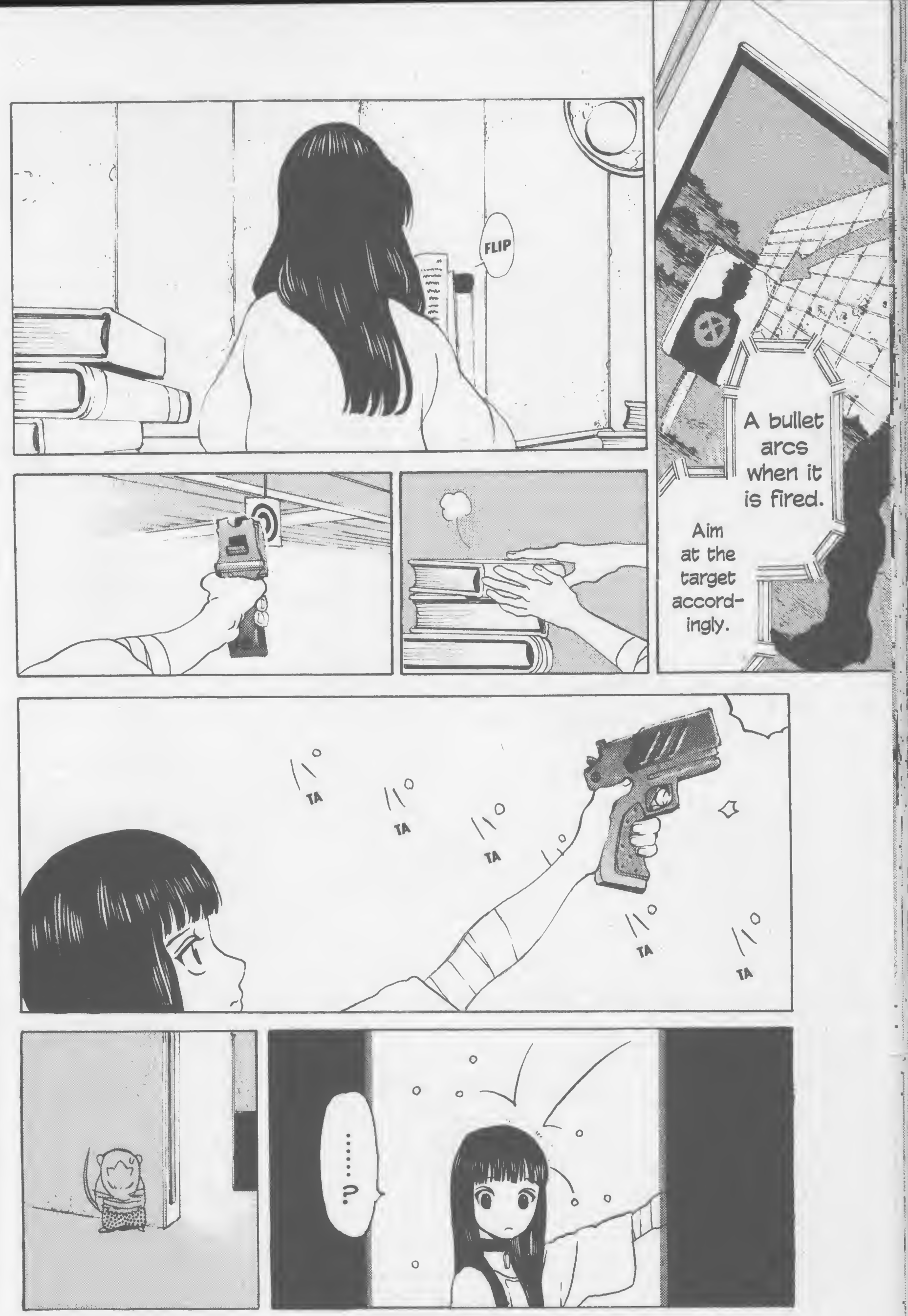

I want you...
...to always be my weapon.
バッ
JUMP
He got away!
Grab him!
!
!!
ドドドドドドドド
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
Œuf-coque!
He's mine!
No, mine!
He's miiiine!!

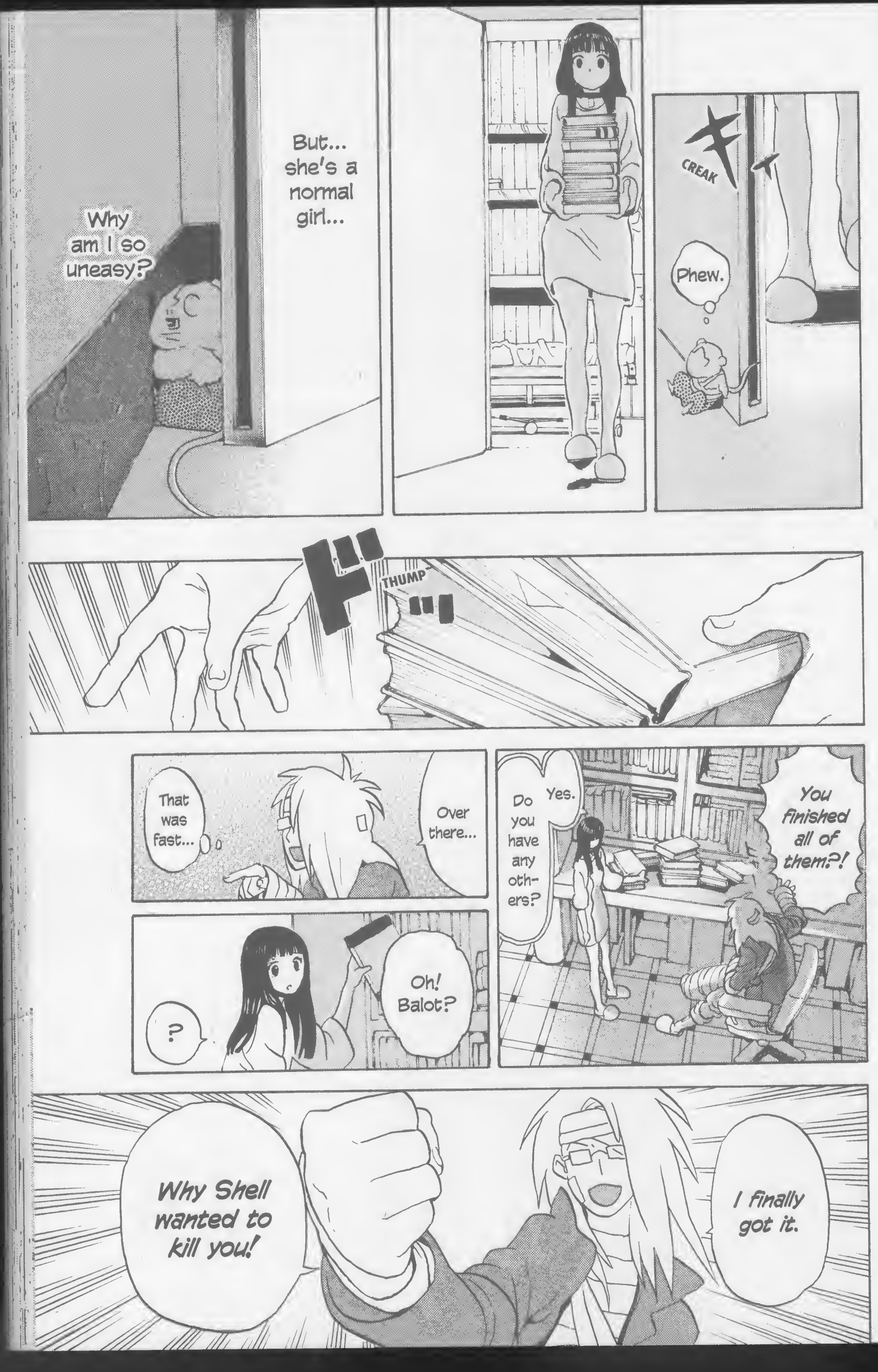

Balot...!
What are you doing?
Trying to kill yourself?
Get down from there!
TUG TUG TUG
Œufcoque...
You...
...belong to me!

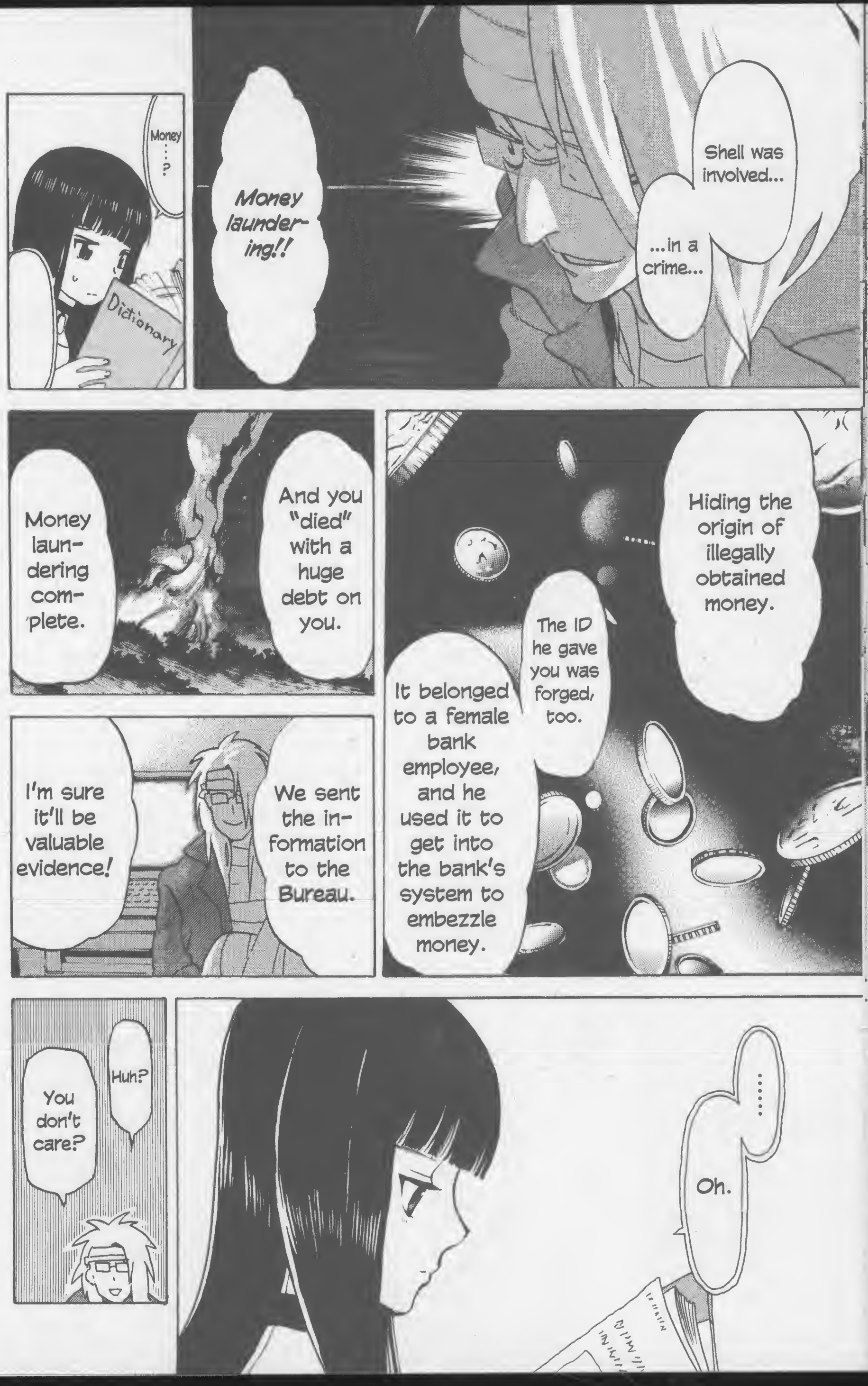

He's mine!
Mine!
Mine!!
What...
...am I?!
SMACK
PANT
PANT
Morning, Œufcoque.

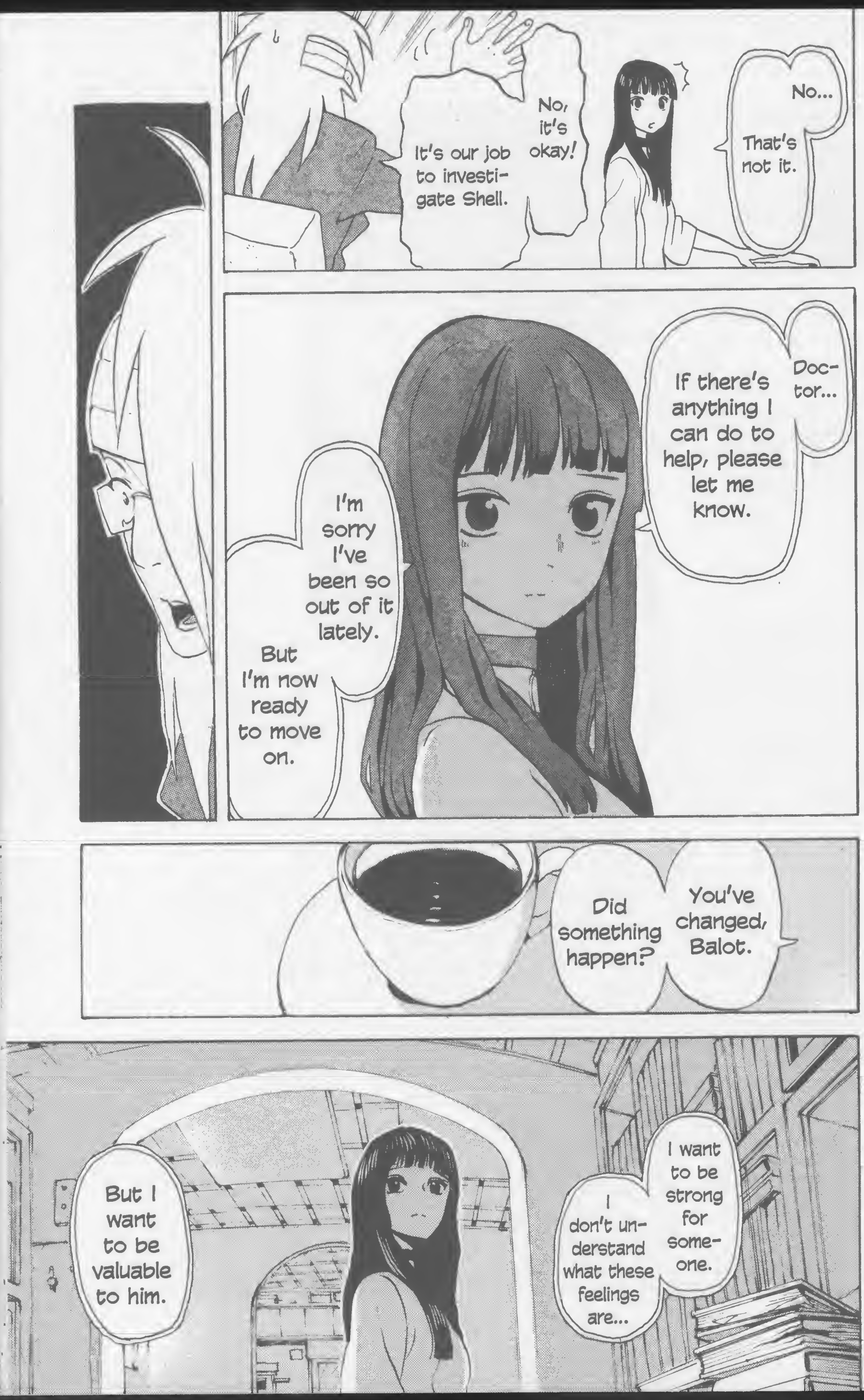

Well?
Do I look good as...
...a mummy?
......
Were you...
...having a nightmare?
Yes...
it was terrible.
Water...
Here.
Where's Balot?
Reading gun manuals and watching videos.
!
She asked me to see them.
Looks like the fight with Boiled inspired her.
Whatever it was, I'm glad.

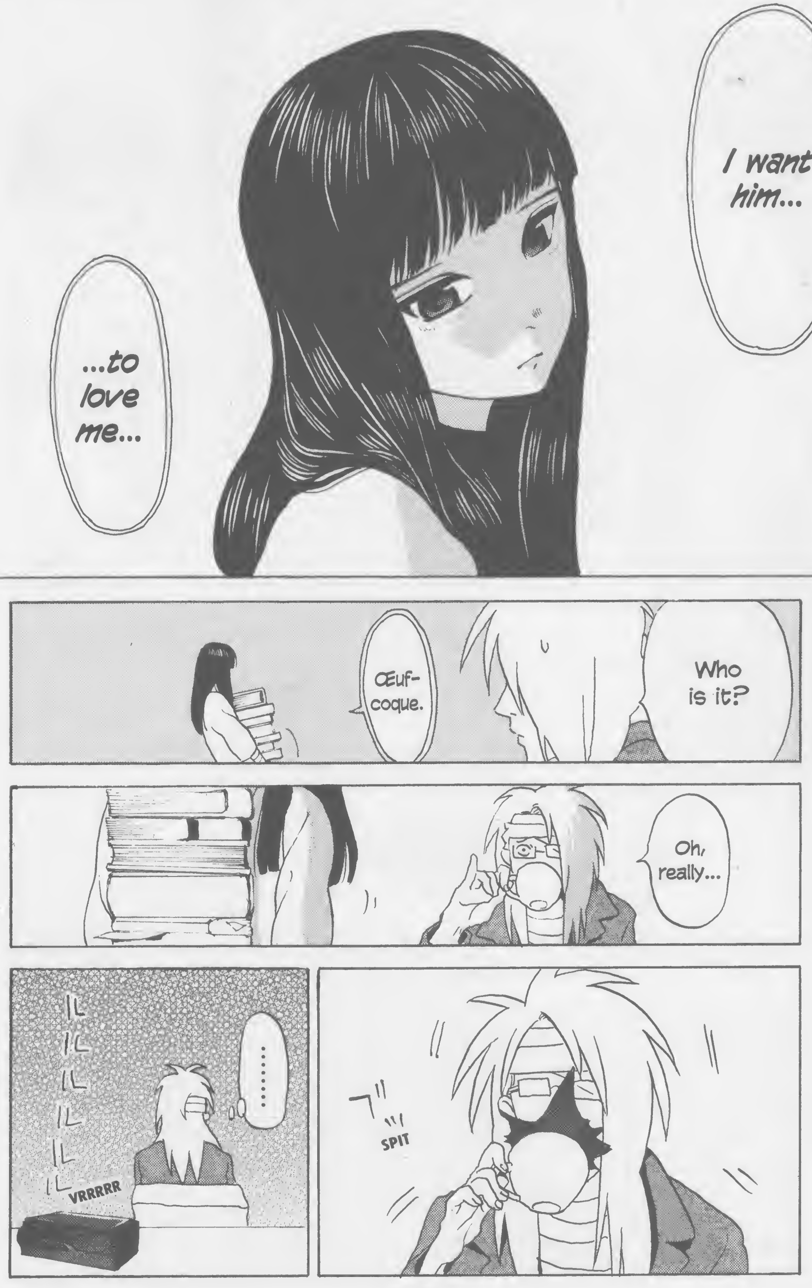

ゴク
GULP
Balot risked her life to save me...
So why... did I have that dream?
Is it because I can't fully grasp how she's feeling?
From now on, I'll do what you say.

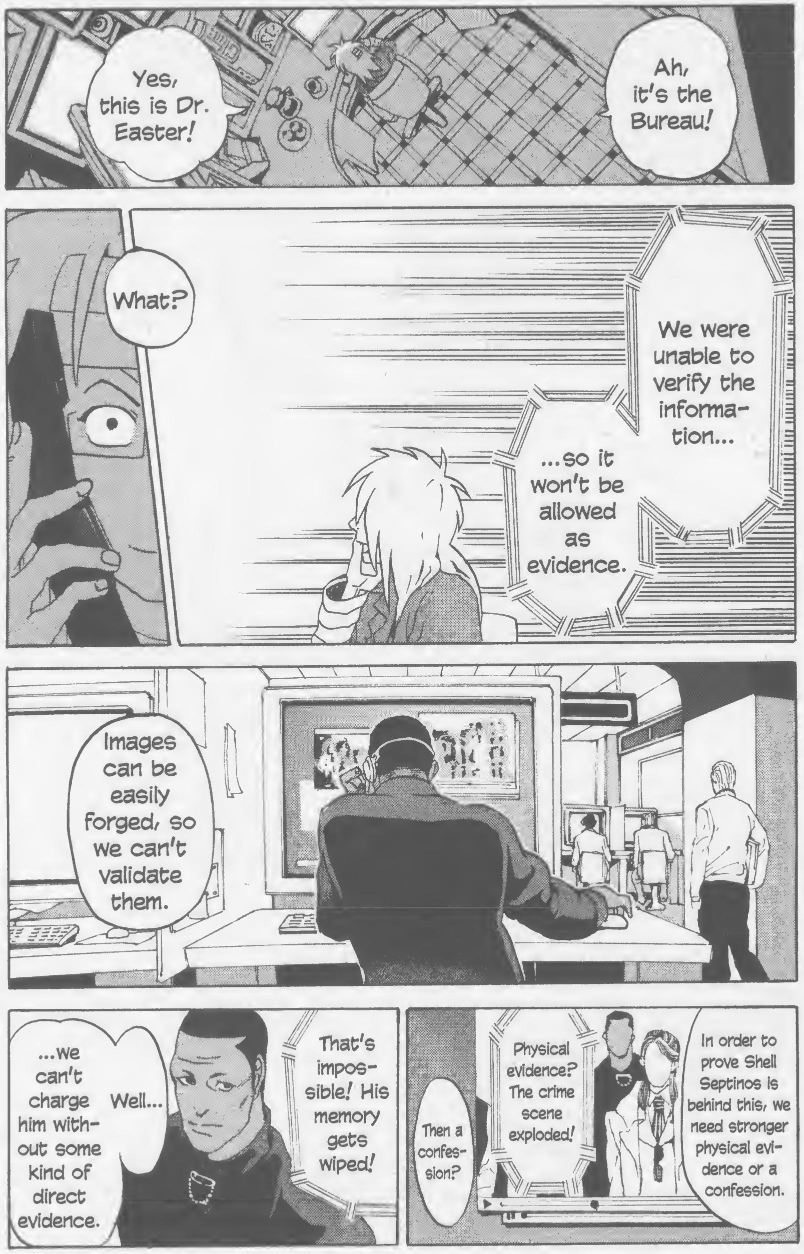

FLIP
A bullet arcs when it is fired.
Aim at the target accordingly.
TA
TA
TA
TA
TA
......?

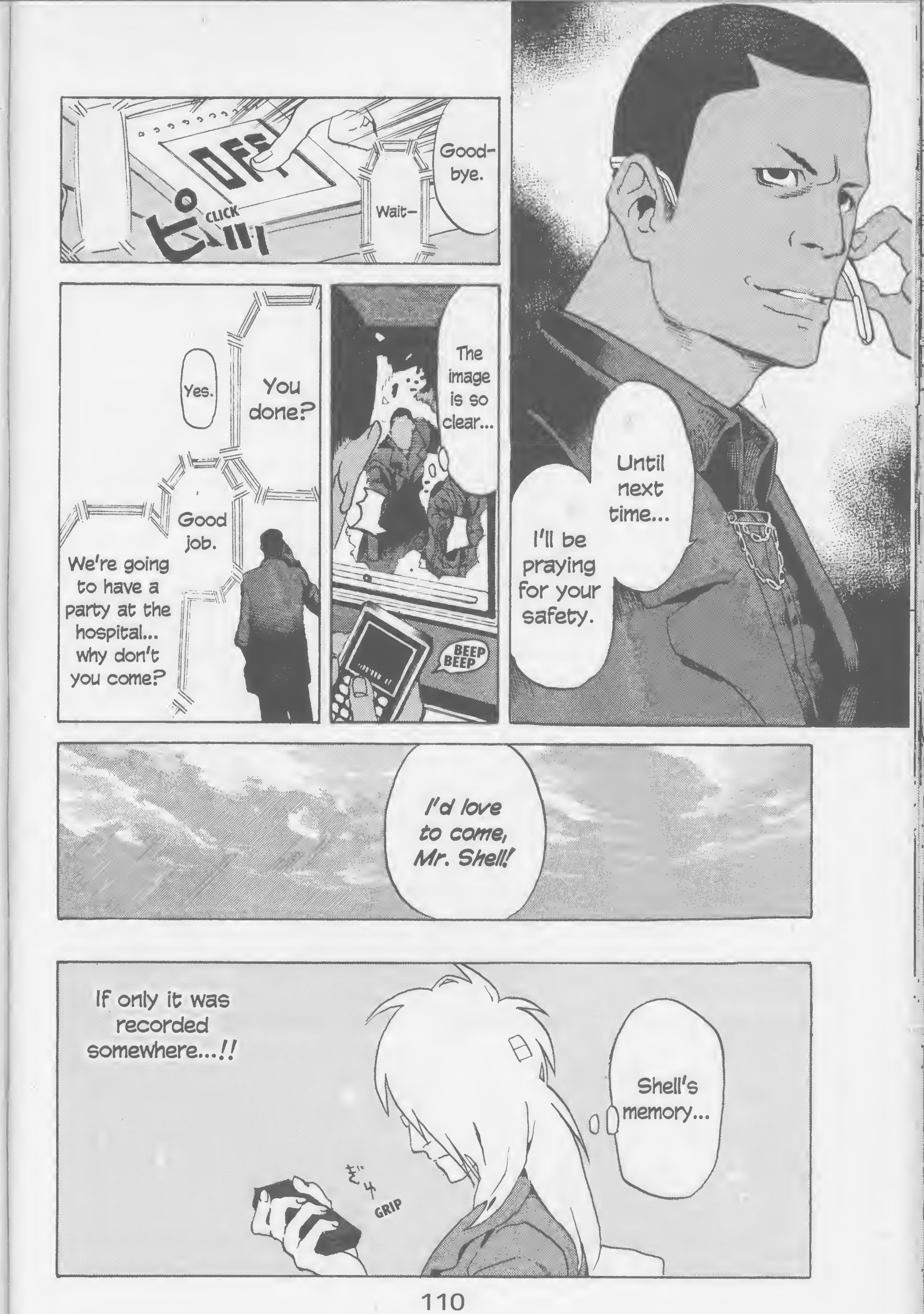

CREAK
Phew.
But... she's a normal girl...
Why am I so uneasy?
THUMP
You finished all of them?!
Yes.
Do you have any others?
Over there...
That was fast...
Oh! Balot?
?
I finally got it.
Why Shell wanted to kill you!

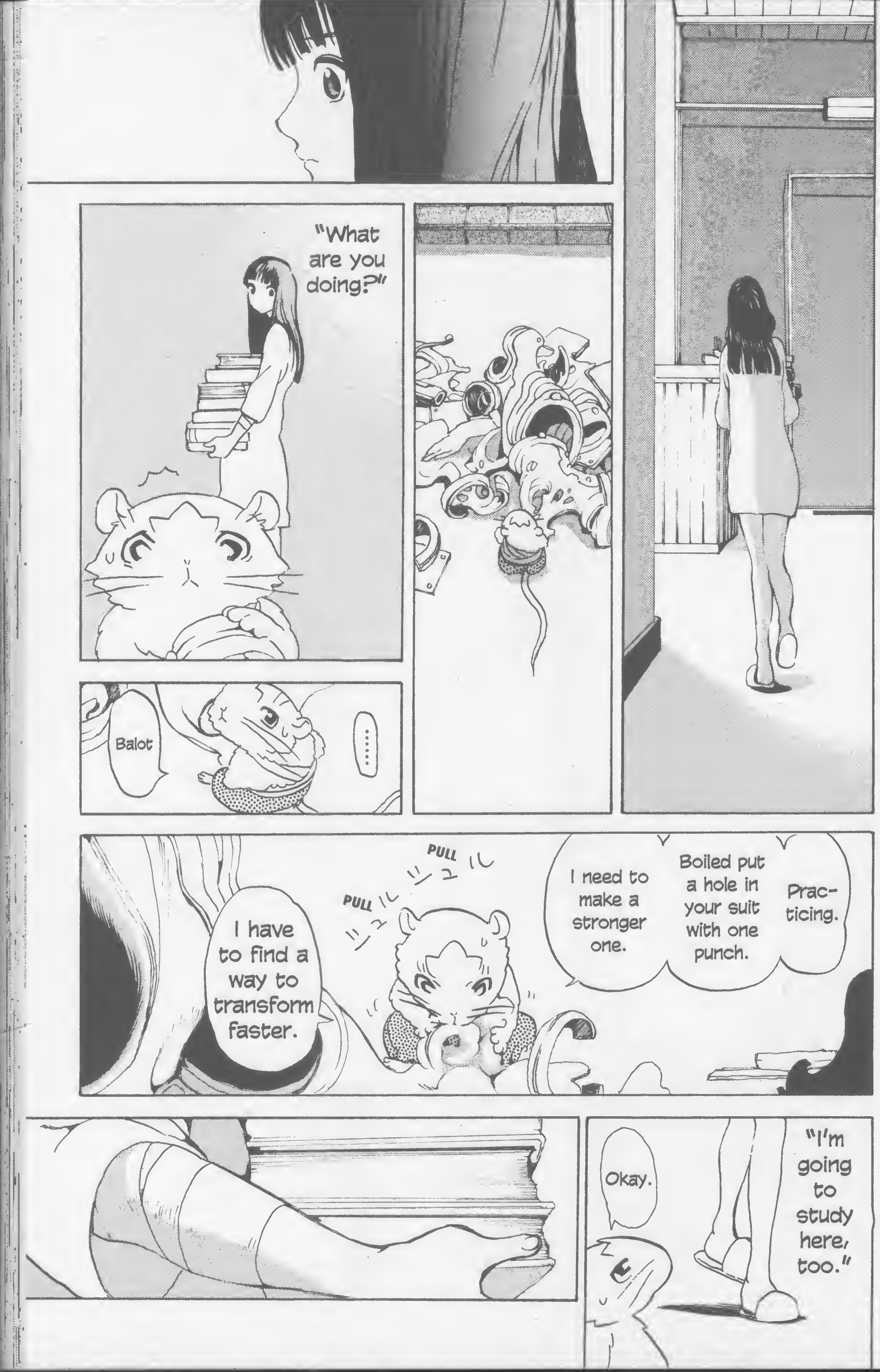

Shell was involved...
...in a crime...
Money laundering!!
Money...?
Dictionary
Hiding the origin of illegally obtained money.
The ID he gave you was forged, too.
It belonged to a female bank employee, and he used it to get into the bank's system to embezzle money.
And you "died" with a huge debt on you.
Money laundering complete.
We sent the information to the Bureau.
I'm sure it'll be valuable evidence!
......
Oh.
Huh?
You don't care?

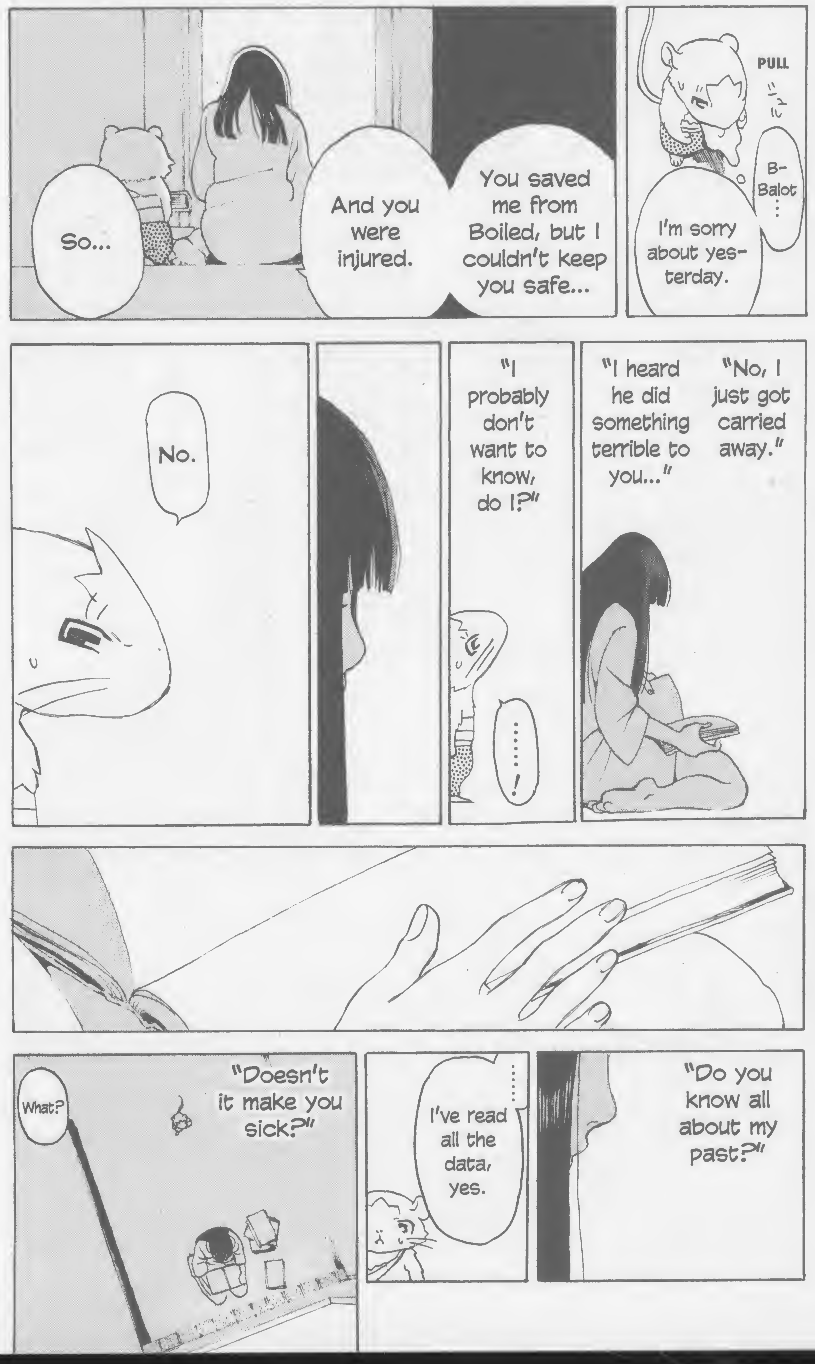

No...
That's not it.
No, it's okay!
It's our job to investigate Shell.
Doctor...
If there's anything I can do to help, please let me know.
I'm sorry I've been so out of it lately.
But I'm now ready to move on.
You've changed, Balot.
Did something happen?
I want to be strong for someone.
I don't understand what these feelings are...
But I want to be valuable to him.

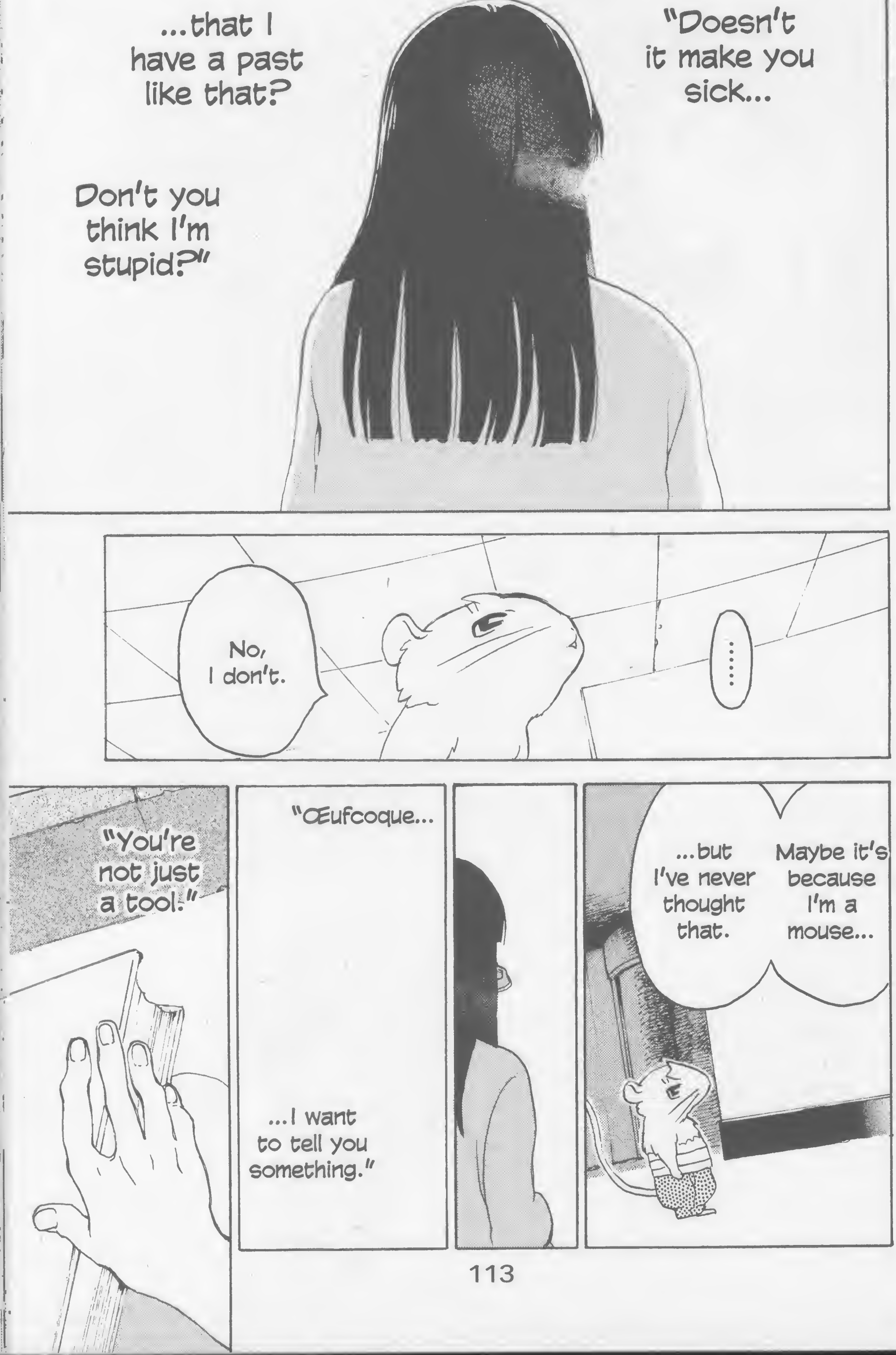

I want him...
...to love me...
Who is it?
Œuf-coque.
Oh, really...
SPIT
......
VRRRRR

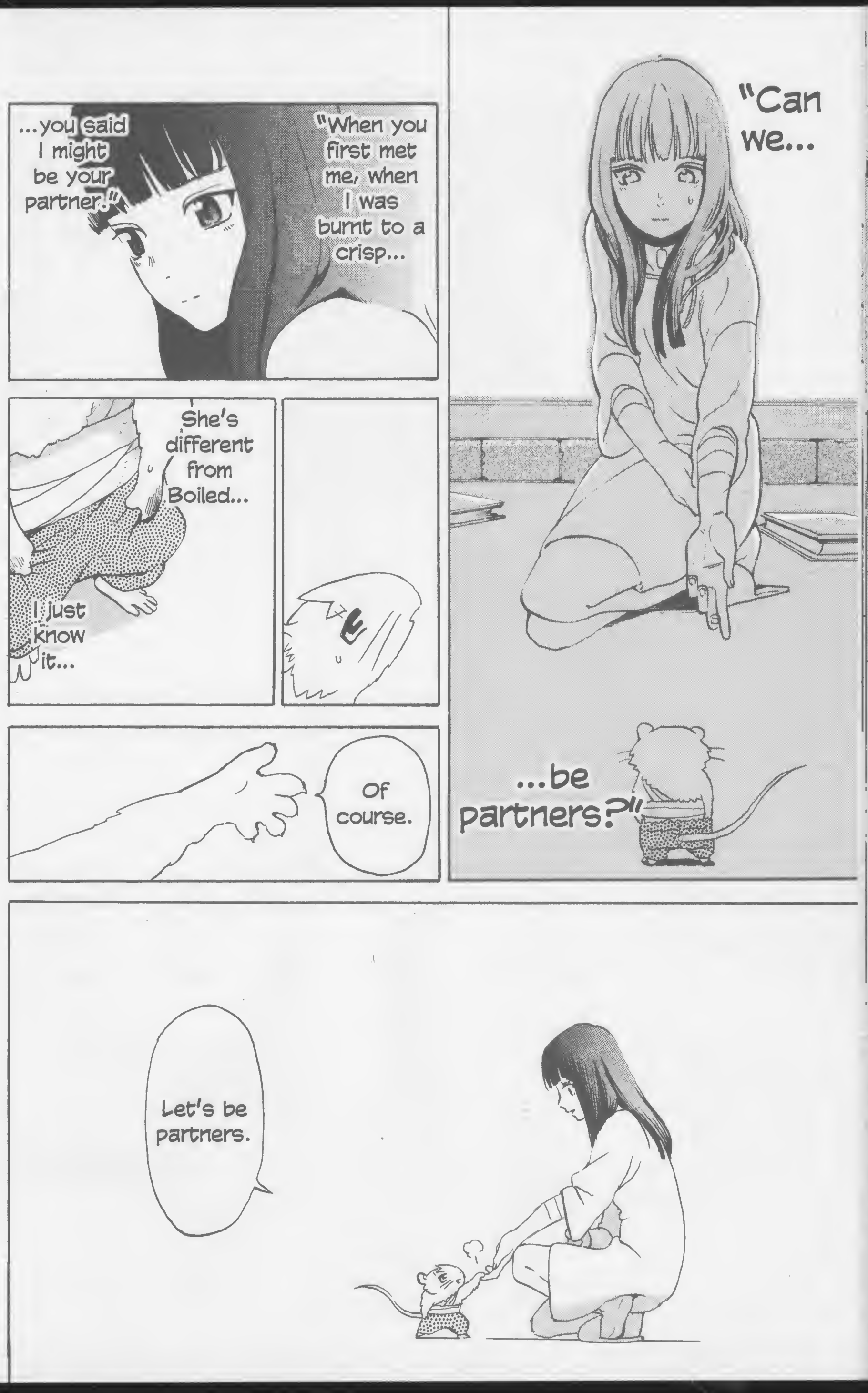

Ah, it's the Bureau!
Yes, this is Dr. Easter!
We were unable to verify the information...
...so it won't be allowed as evidence.
What?
Images can be easily forged, so we can't validate them.
In order to prove Shell Septinos is behind this, we need stronger physical evidence or a confession.
Physical evidence? The crime scene exploded!
Then a confession?
That's impossible! His memory gets wiped!
Well...
...we can't charge him without some kind of direct evidence.

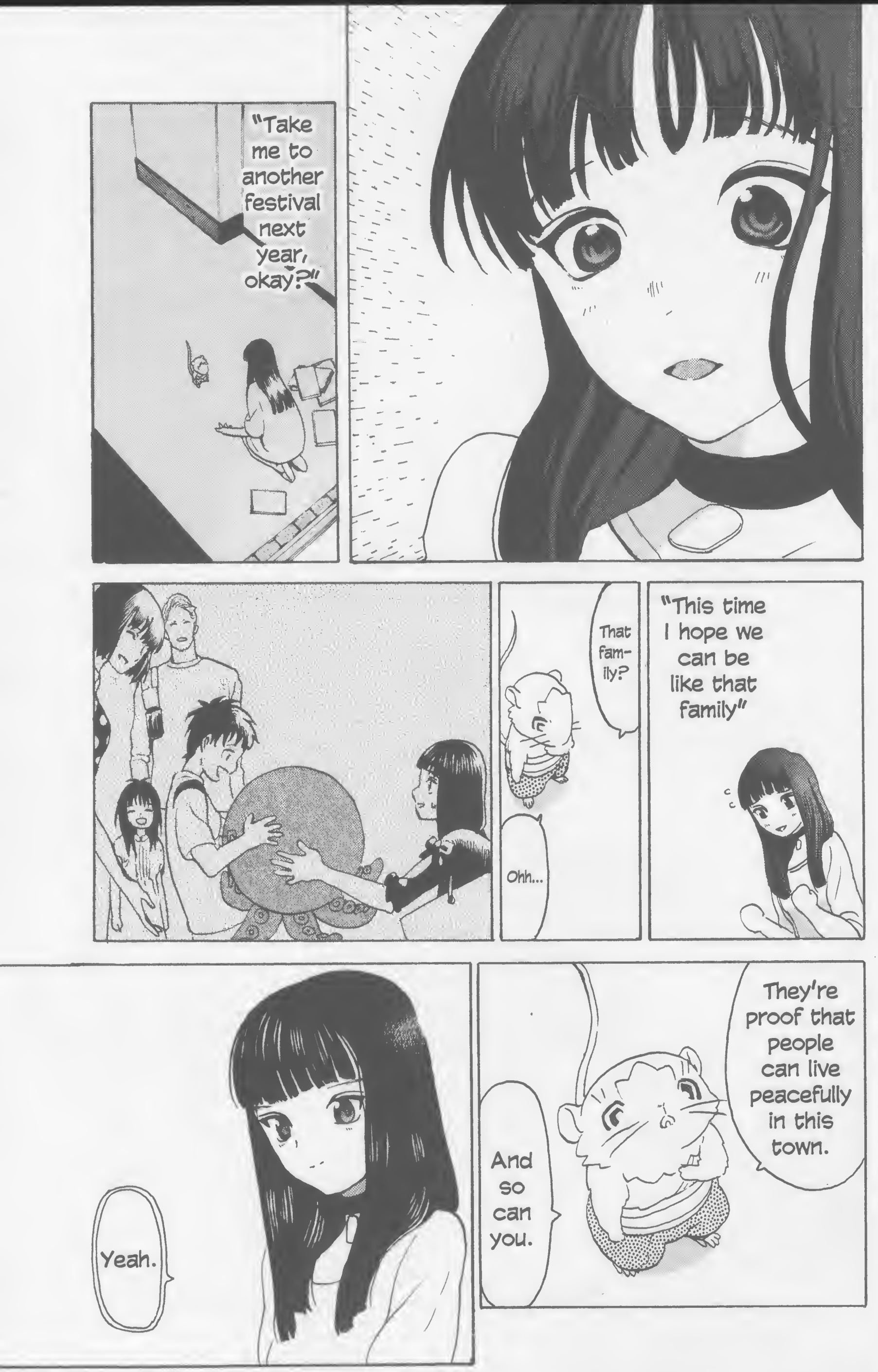

Until next time...
I'll be praying for your safety.
Goodbye.
Wait–
ピッ CLICK
OFF
The image is so clear...
BEEP BEEP
You done?
Yes.
Good job.
We're going to have a party at the hospital... why don't you come?
I'd love to come, Mr. Shell!
Shell's memory...
If only it was recorded somewhere...!!
ぎゅ GRIP

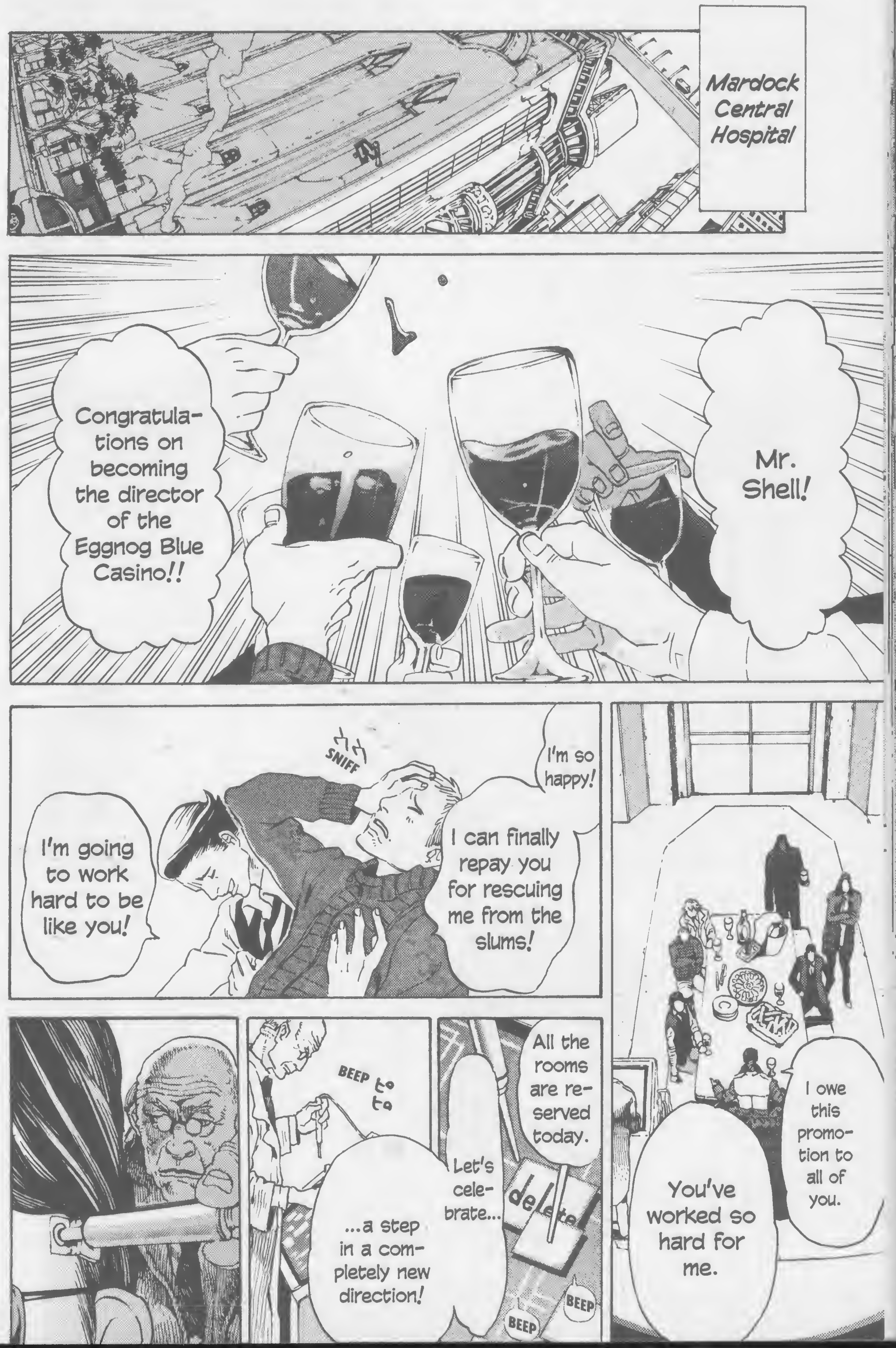

"What are you doing?"
......
Balot
Practicing.
Boiled put a hole in your suit with one punch.
I need to make a stronger one.
シュルシュル PULL PULL
I have to find a way to transform faster.
"I'm going to study here, too."
Okay.

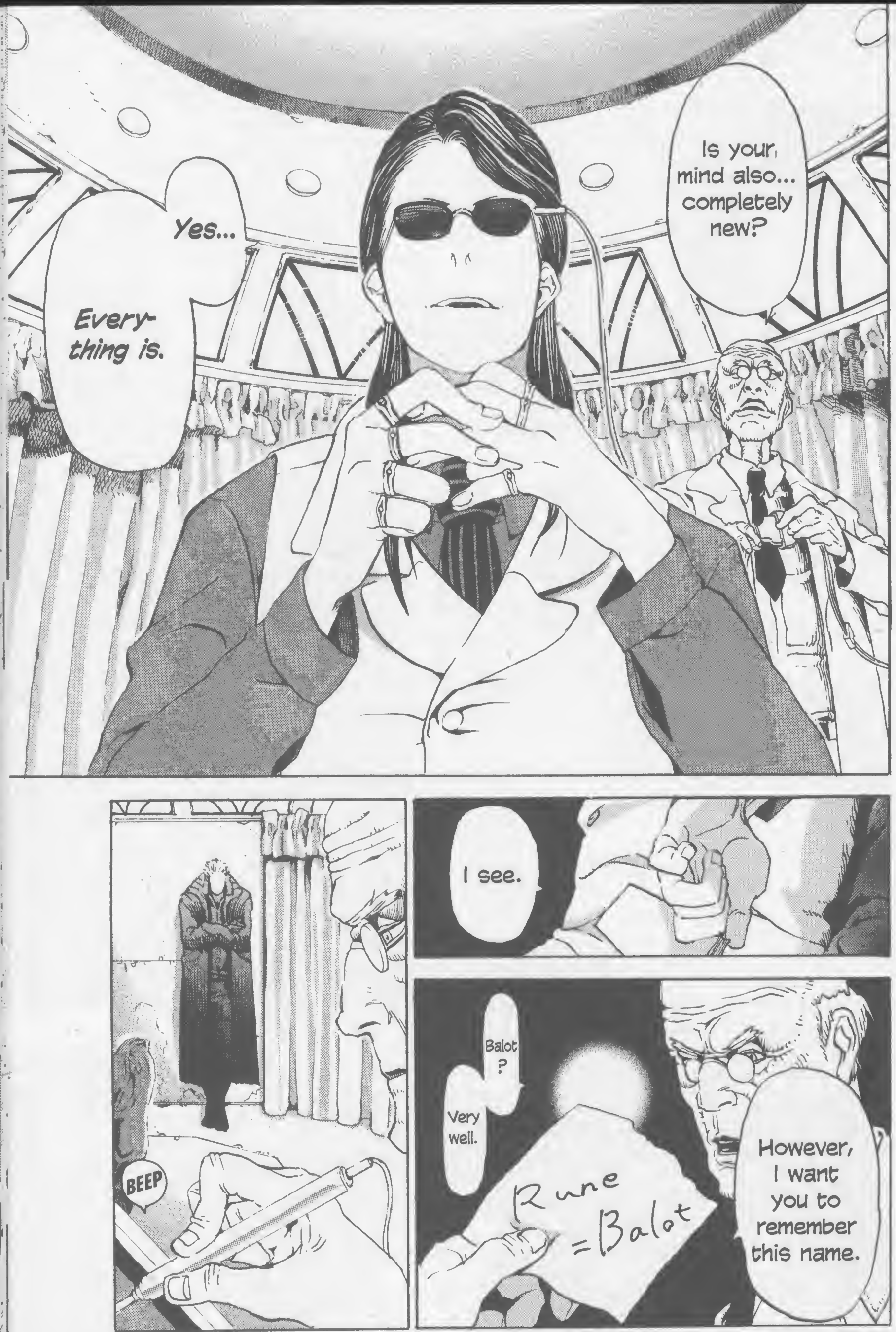

PULL
B-Balot...
I'm sorry about yesterday.
You saved me from Boiled, but I couldn't keep you safe...
And you were injured.
So...
"No, I just got carried away."
"I heard he did something terrible to you..."
"I probably don't want to know, do I?"
......!
No.
"Do you know all about my past?"
......
I've read all the data, yes.
"Doesn't it make you sick?"
What?

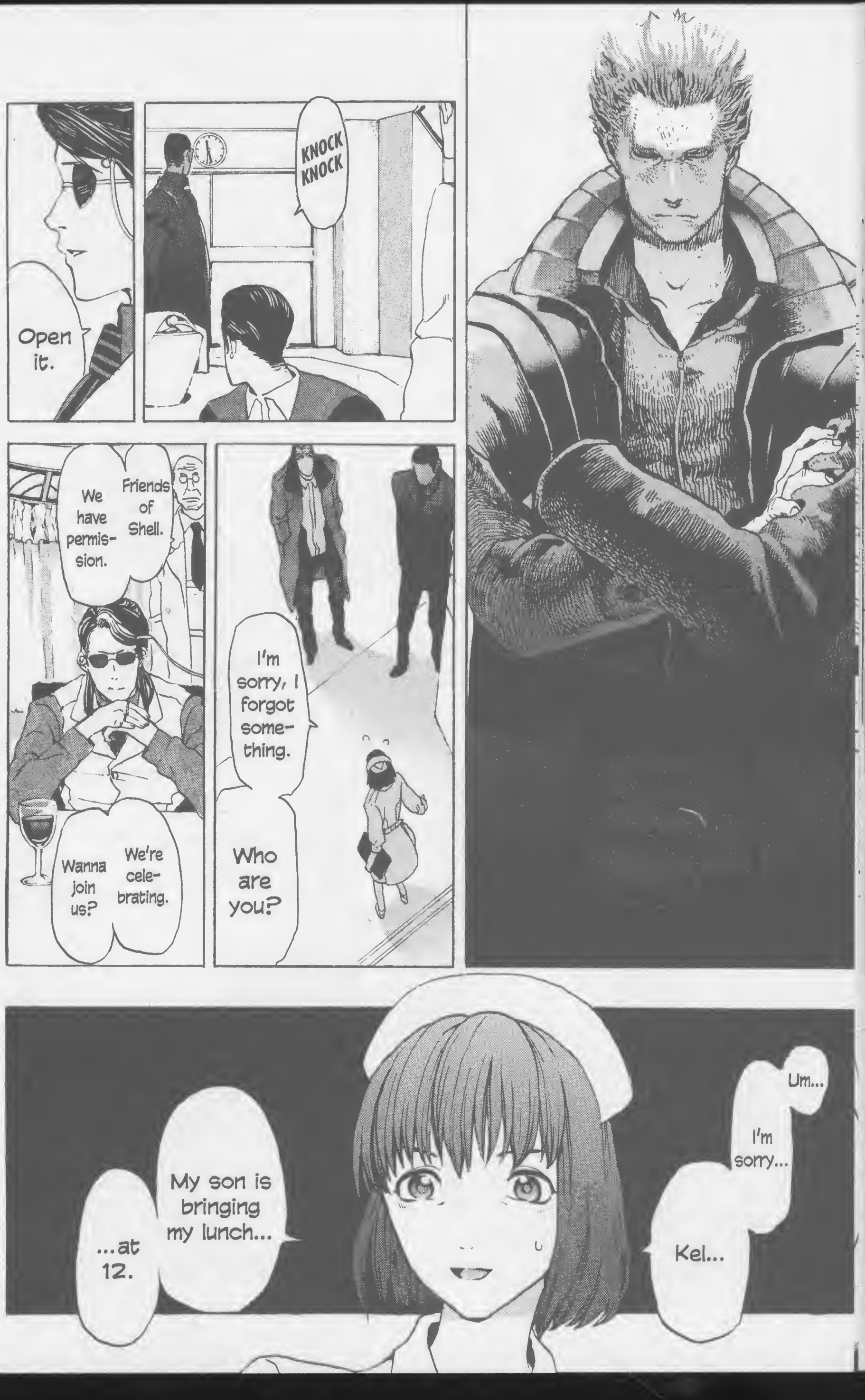

"Doesn't it make you sick...
...that I have a past like that?
Don't you think I'm stupid?"
......
No, I don't.
Maybe it's because I'm a mouse...
...but I've never thought that.
"Œufcoque...
...I want to tell you something."
"You're not just a tool."

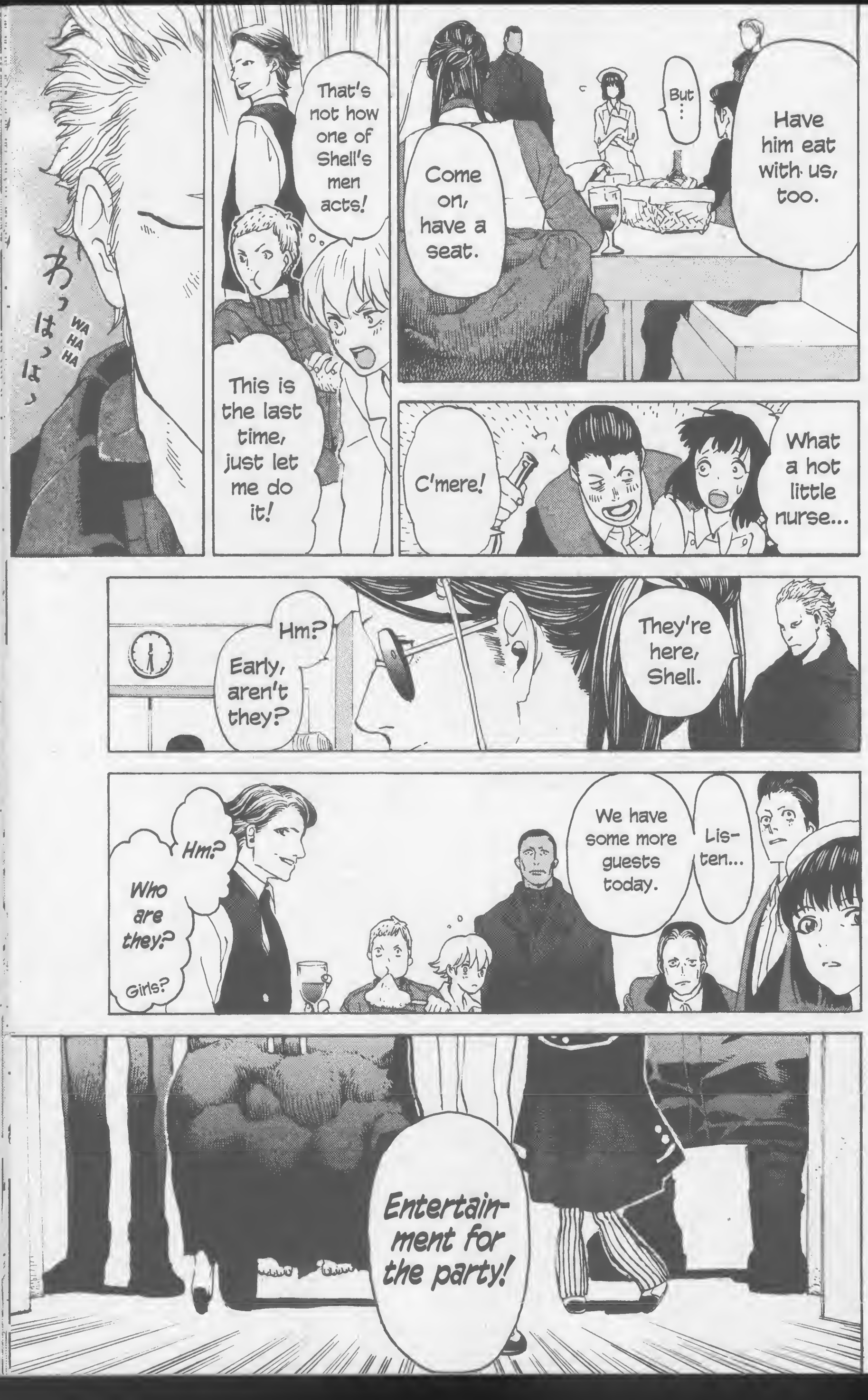

"When you first met me, when I was burnt to a crisp...
...you said I might be your partner."
She's different from Boiled...
I just know it...
"Can we...
...be partners?"
Of course.
Let's be partners.

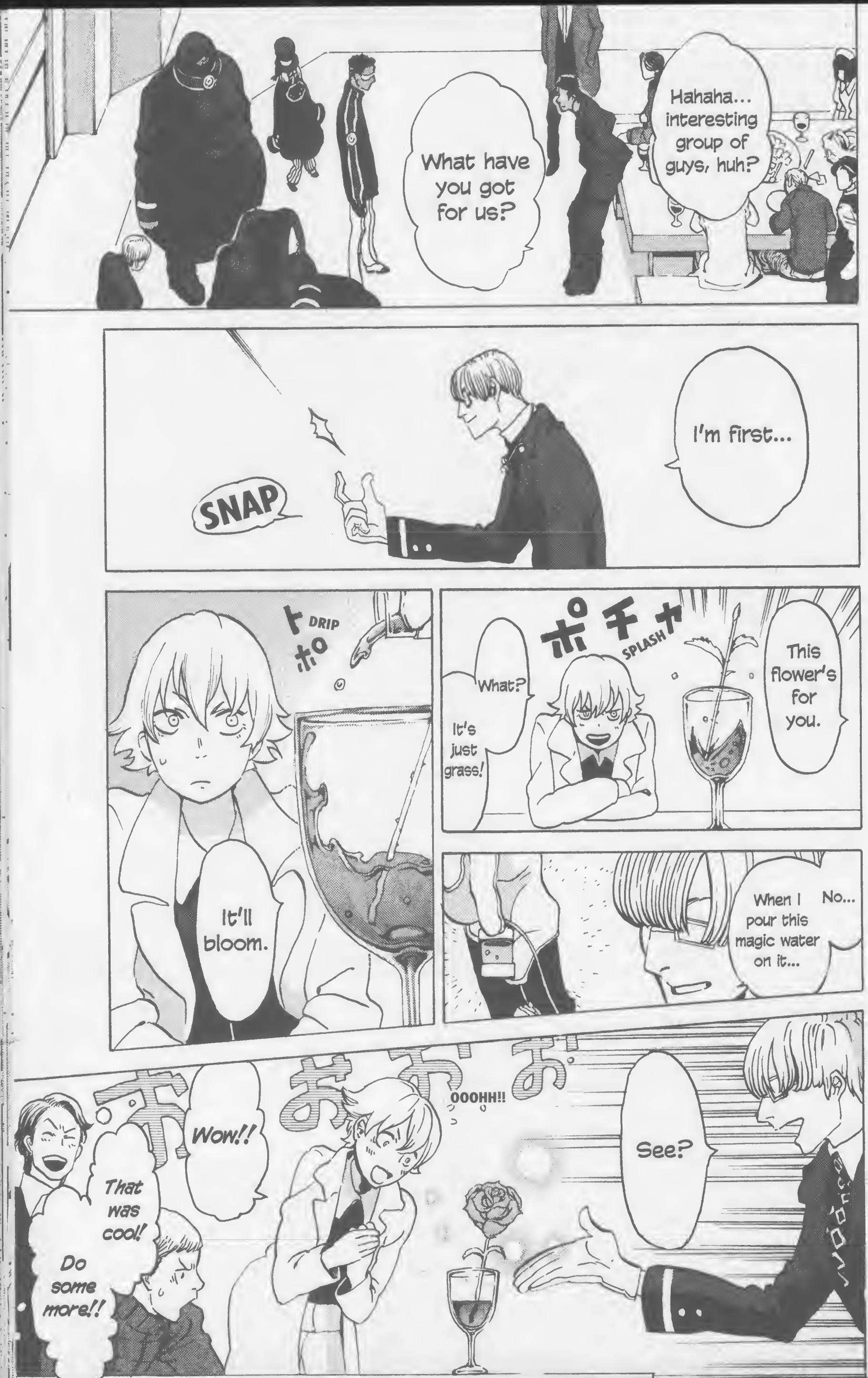

"Take me to another festival next year, okay?"
"This time I hope we can be like that family"
That family?
Ohh...
They're proof that people can live peacefully in this town.
And so can you.
Yeah.

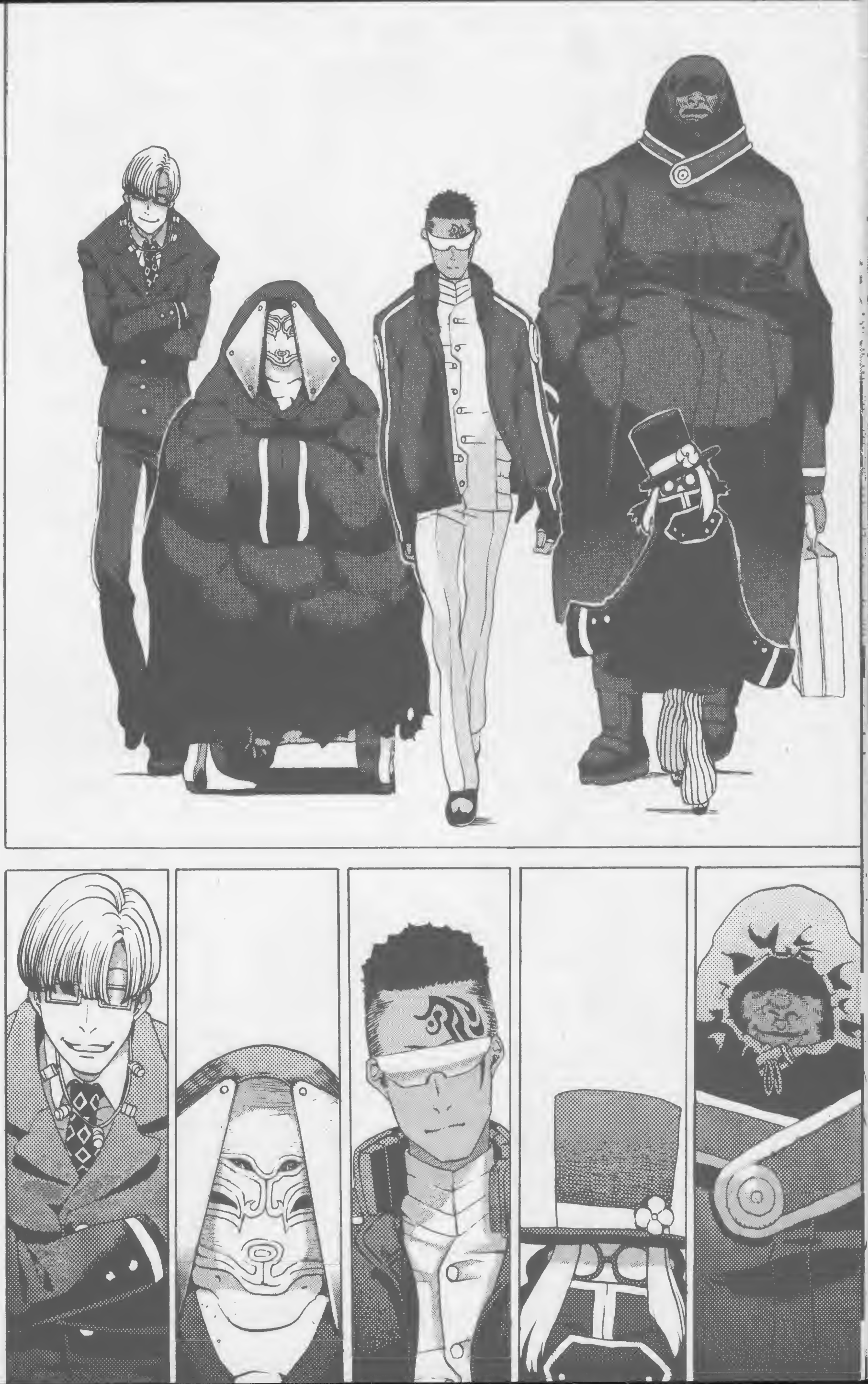

Mardock Central Hospital
Mr. Shell!
Congratulations on becoming the director of the Eggnog Blue Casino!!
I owe this promotion to all of you.
You've worked so hard for me.
SNIFF
I'm so happy!
I can finally repay you for rescuing me from the slums!
I'm going to work hard to be like you!
All the rooms are reserved today.
Let's celebrate...
...a step in a completely new direction!
delete
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP to to

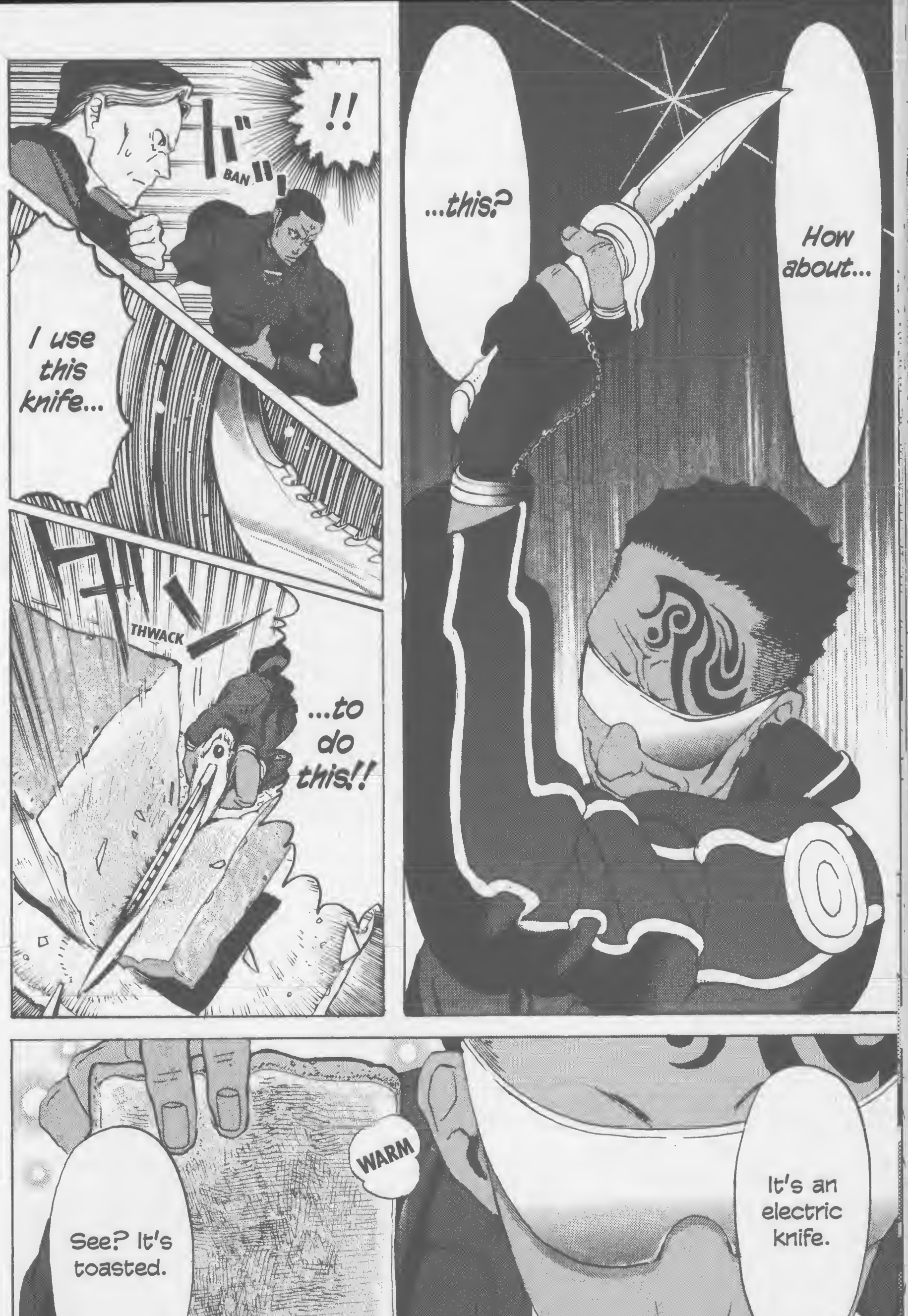

Is your mind also... completely new?
Yes...
Everything is.
I see.
BEEP
Balot?
Very well.
However, I want you to remember this name.
Rune =Balot

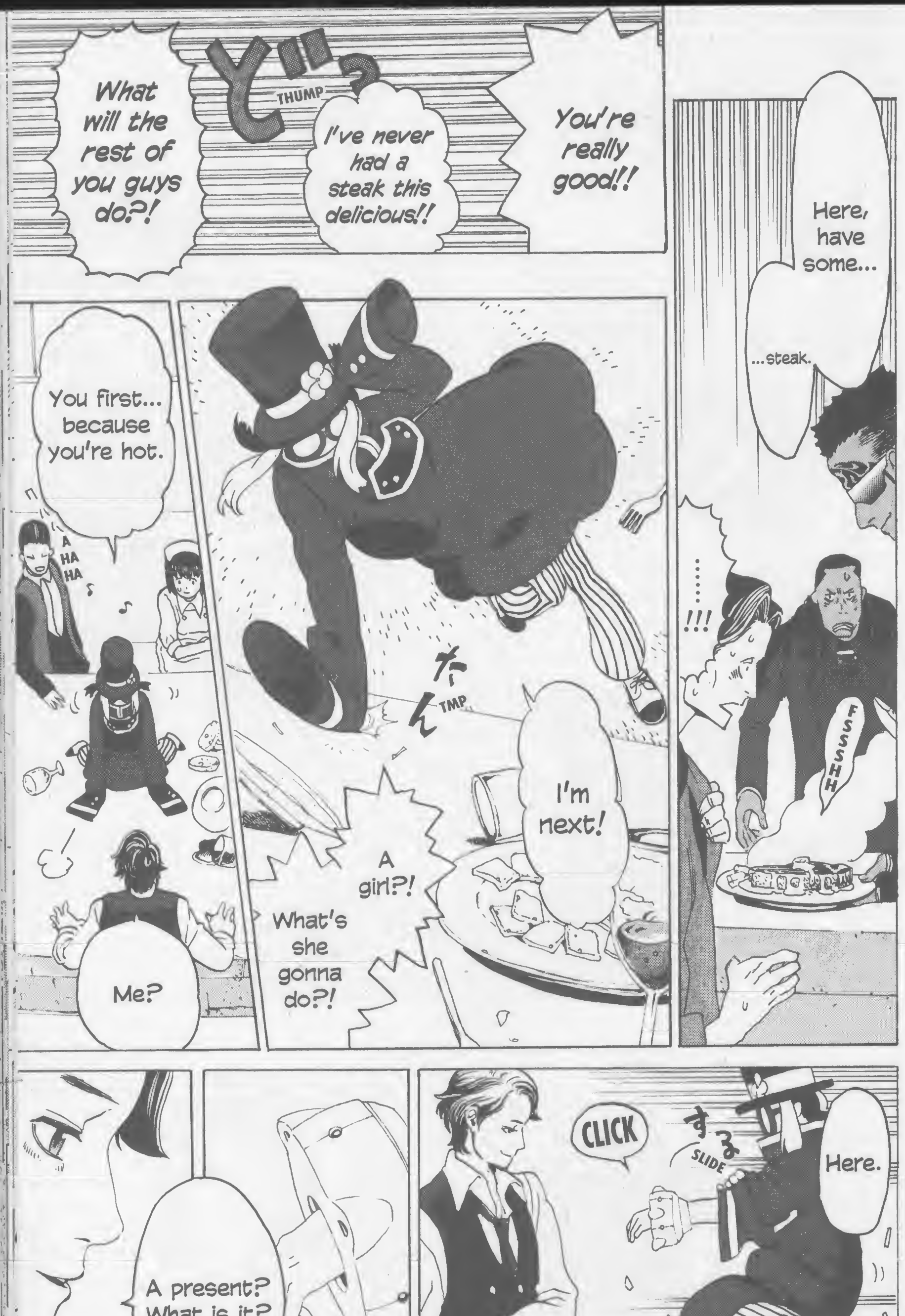

KNOCK KNOCK
Open it.
I'm sorry, I forgot something.
Who are you?
Friends of Shell.
We have permission.
We're celebrating.
Wanna join us?
Um...
I'm sorry...
Kel...
My son is bringing my lunch...
...at 12.

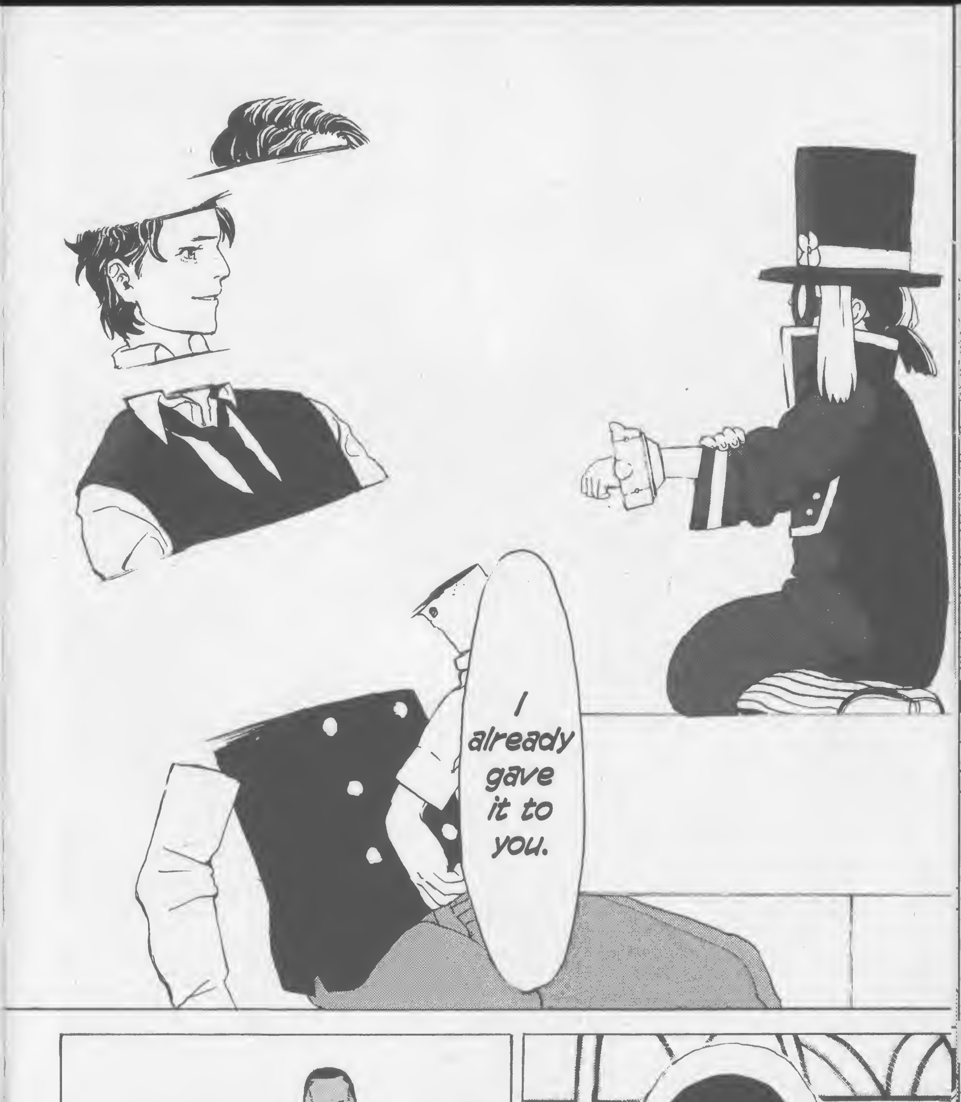

Have him eat with us, too.
But...
Come on, have a seat.
That's not how one of Shell's men acts!
This is the last time, just let me do it!
わっはっはっ
WA HA HA
What a hot little nurse...
C'mere!
They're here, Shell.
Hm?
Early, aren't they?
Listen...
We have some more guests today.
Hm?
Who are they?
Girls?
Entertainment for the party!

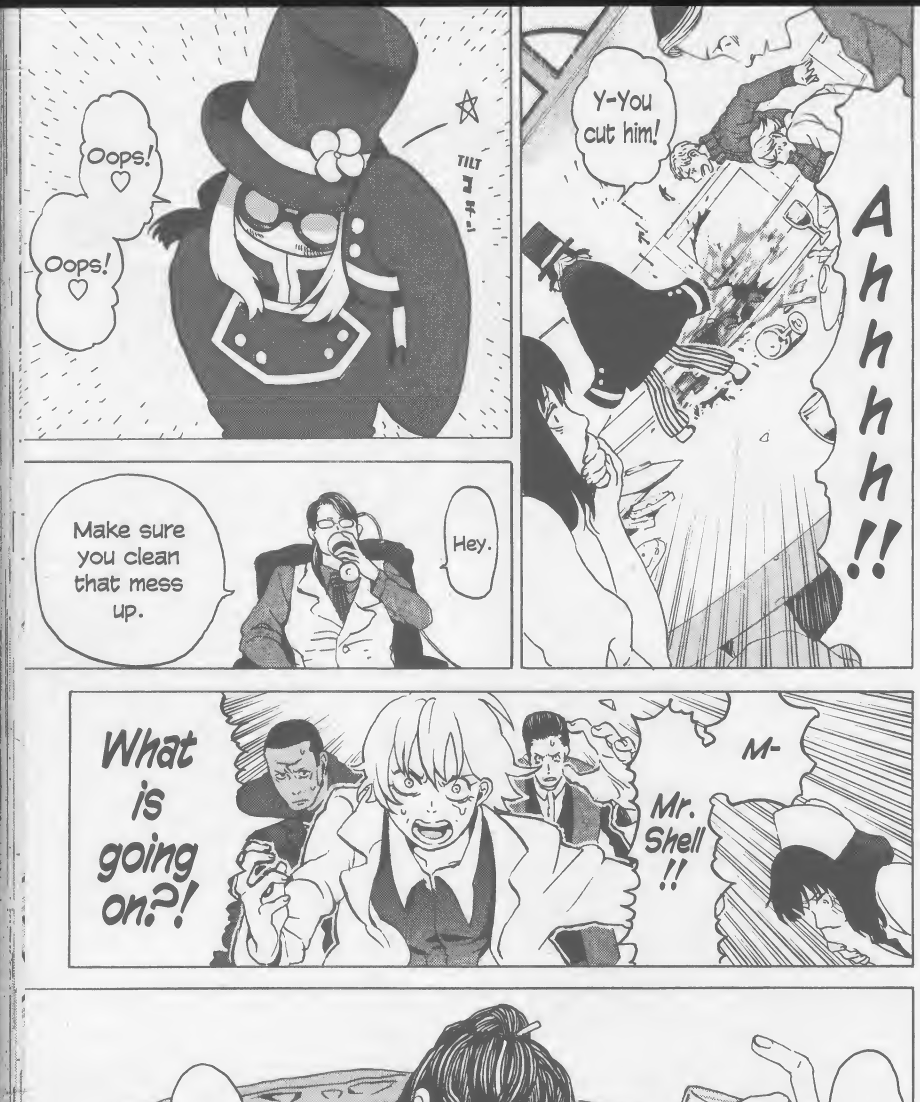

Hahaha... interesting group of guys, huh?
What have you got for us?
I'm first...
SNAP
This flower's for you.
ポチャ SPLASH
What?
It's just grass!
ポト DRIP
It'll bloom.
No...
When I pour this magic water on it...
See?
おおおお OOOHH!!
Wow!!
That was cool!
Do some more!!

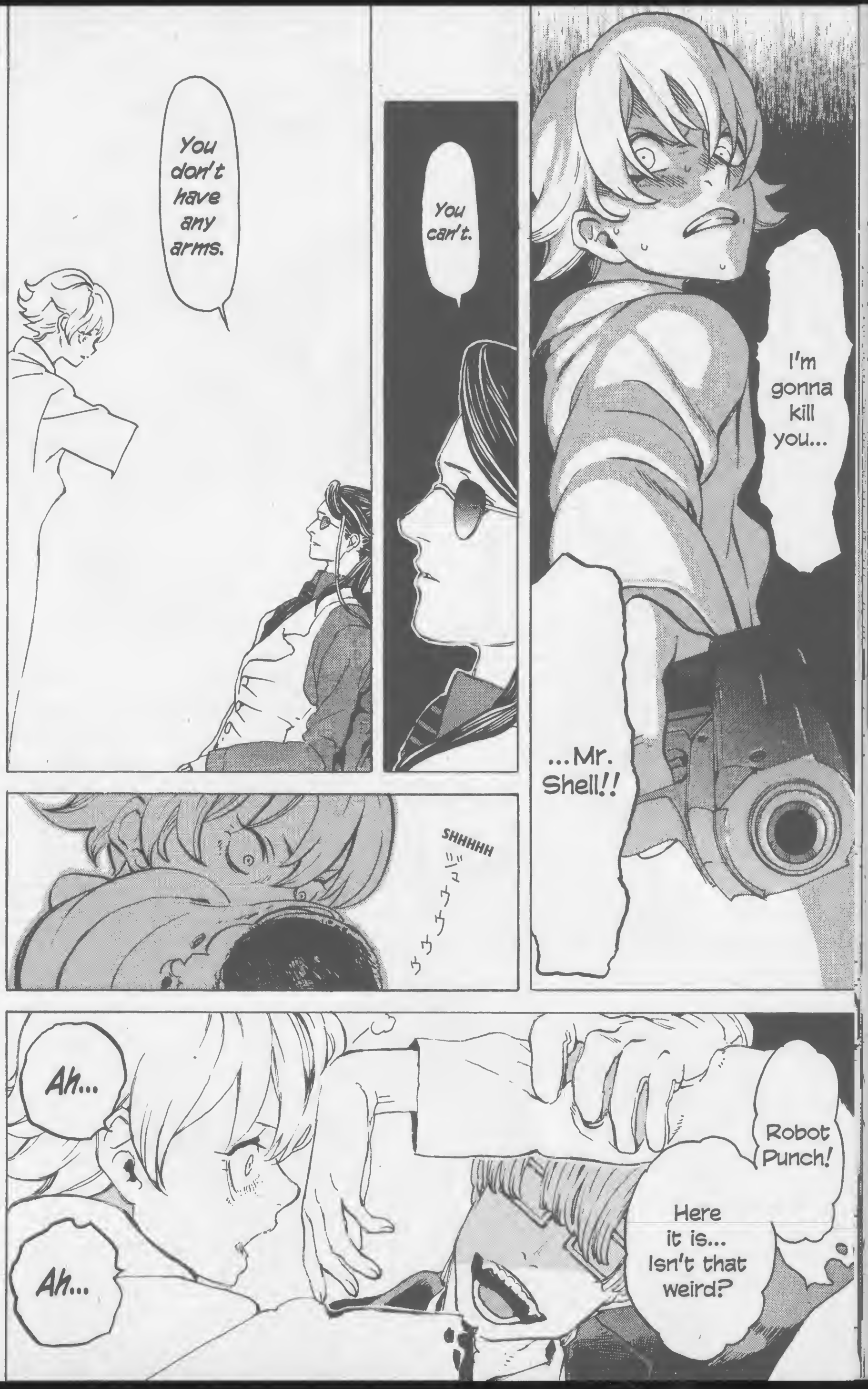


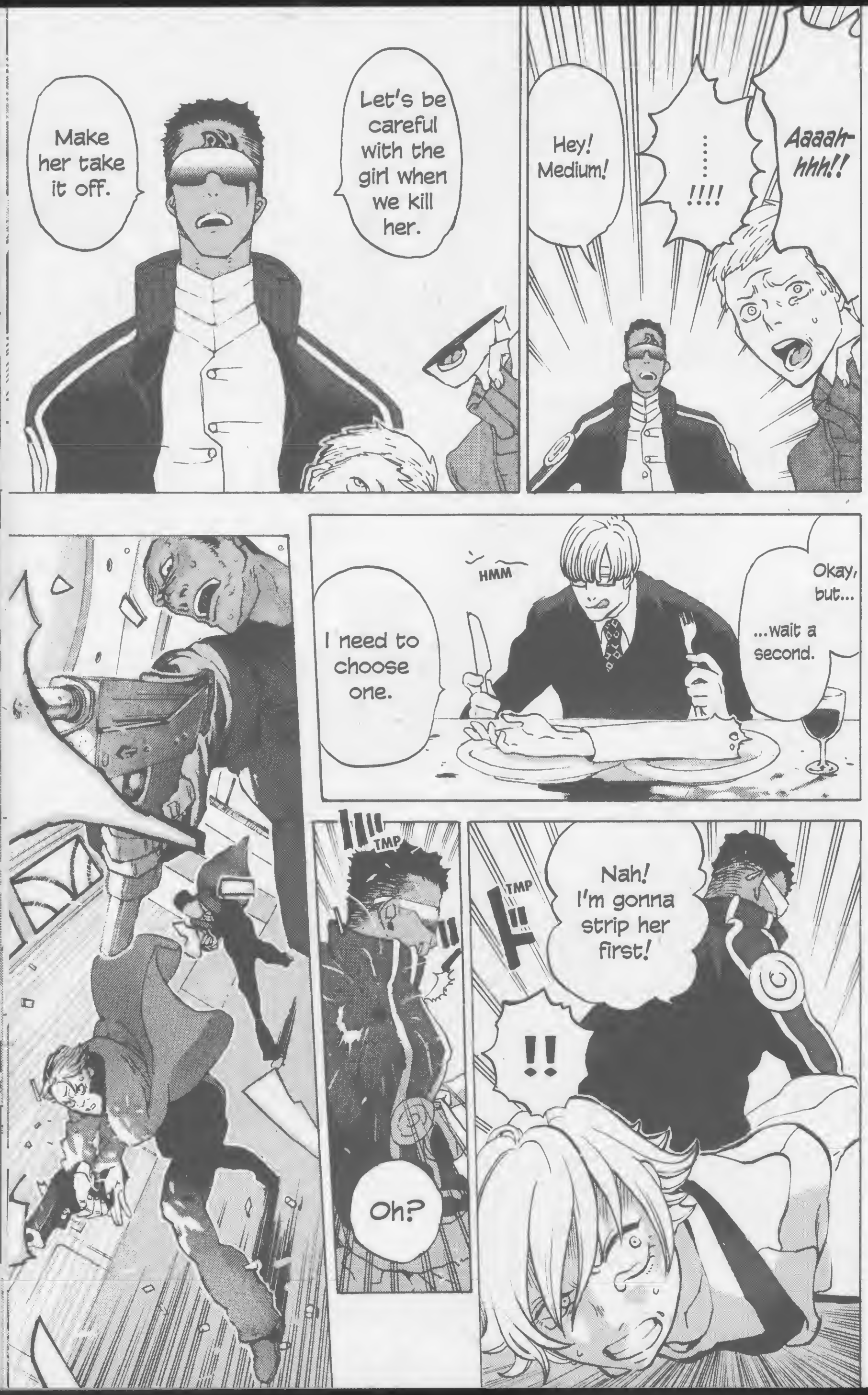

How about...
...this?
!!
BAN
I use this knife...
THWACK
...to do this!!
It's an electric knife.
WARM
See? It's toasted.
WARM

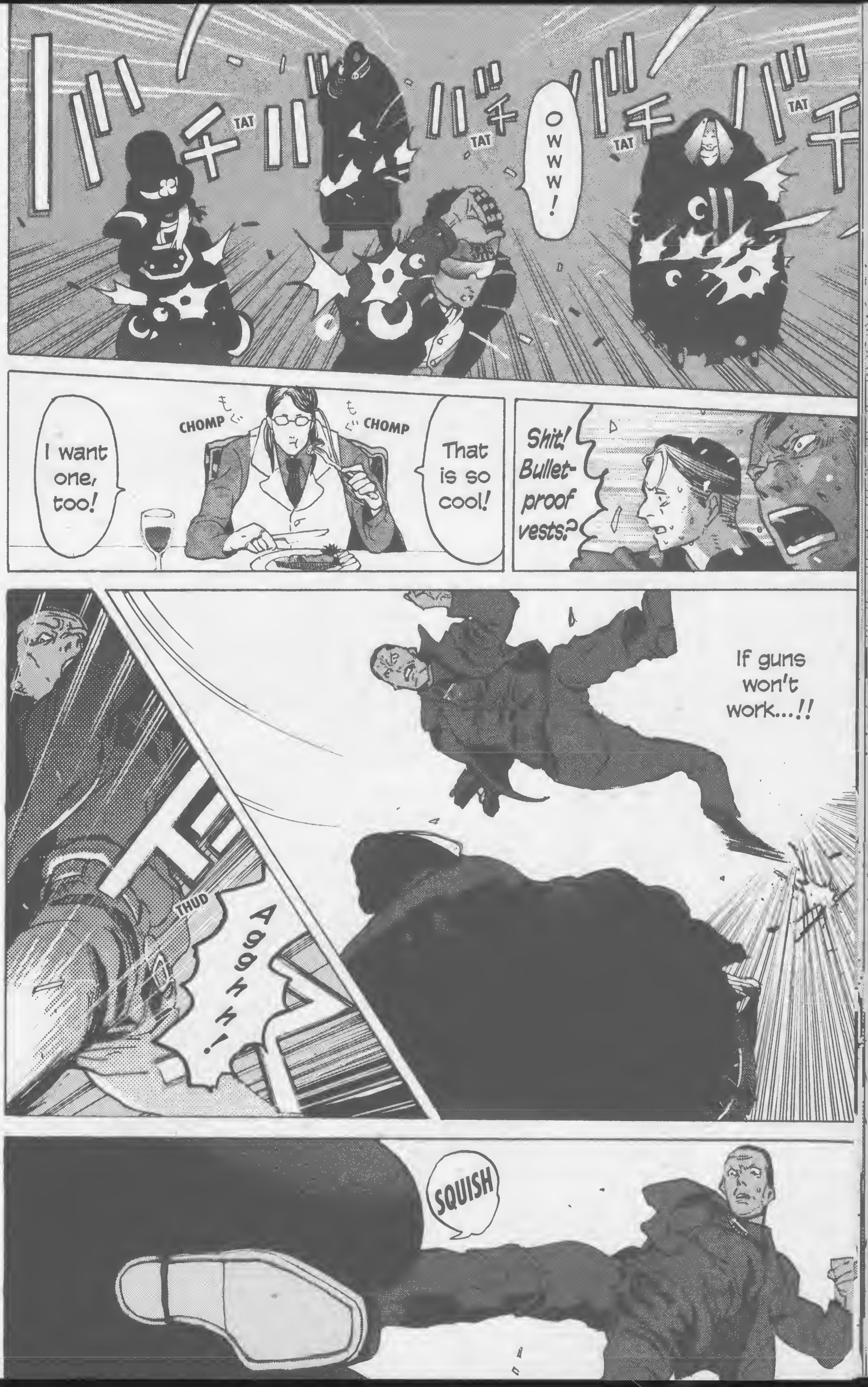

Here, have some...
...steak.
!!!
……
FSSSHH
You're really good!!
THUMP
I've never had a steak this delicious!!
What will the rest of you guys do?!
I'm next!
TMP
A girl?!
What's she gonna do?!
You first... because you're hot.
A HA HA
Me?
Here.
SLIDE
CLICK
A present? What is it?

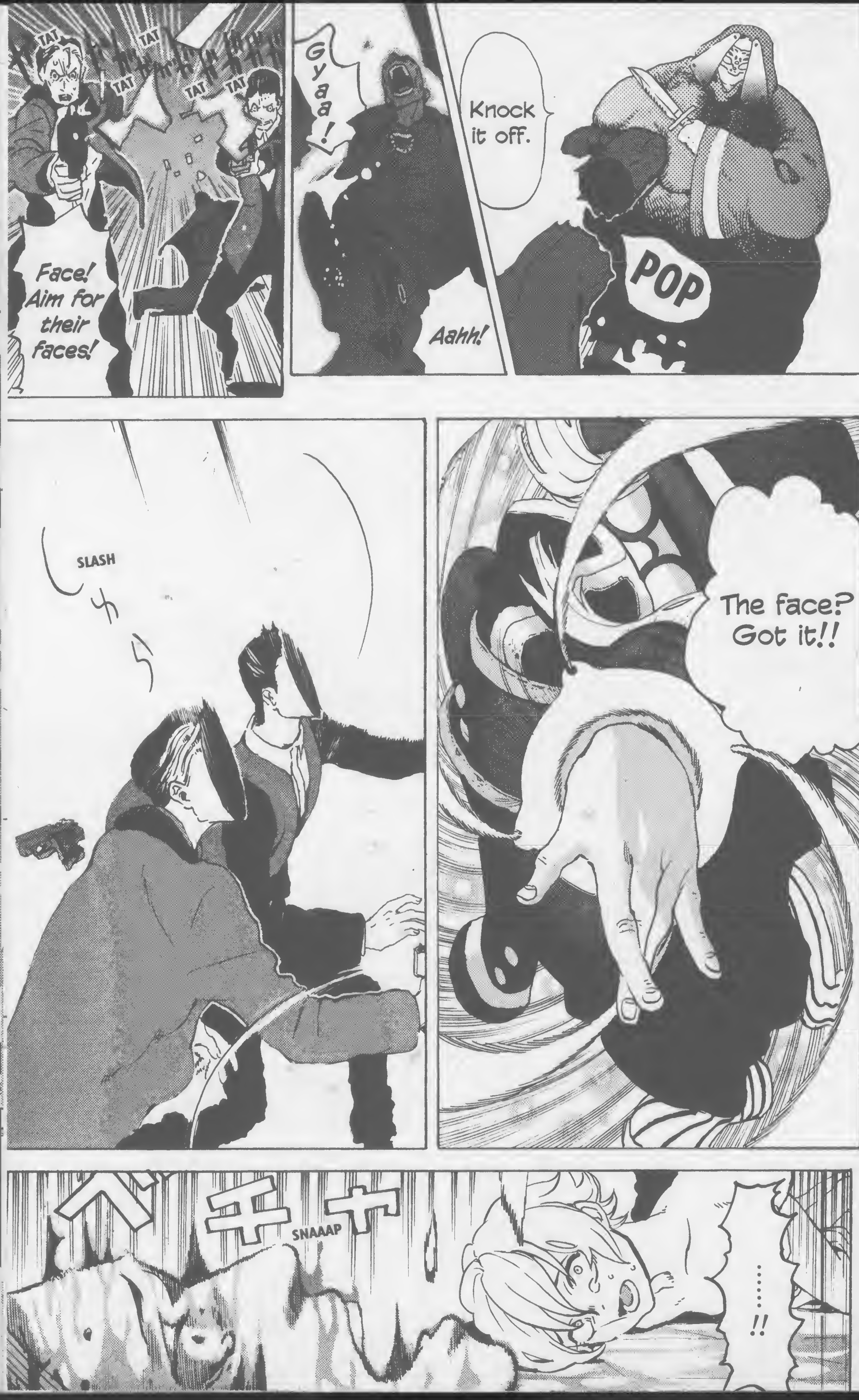

I already gave it to you.
ドチャ
THUD

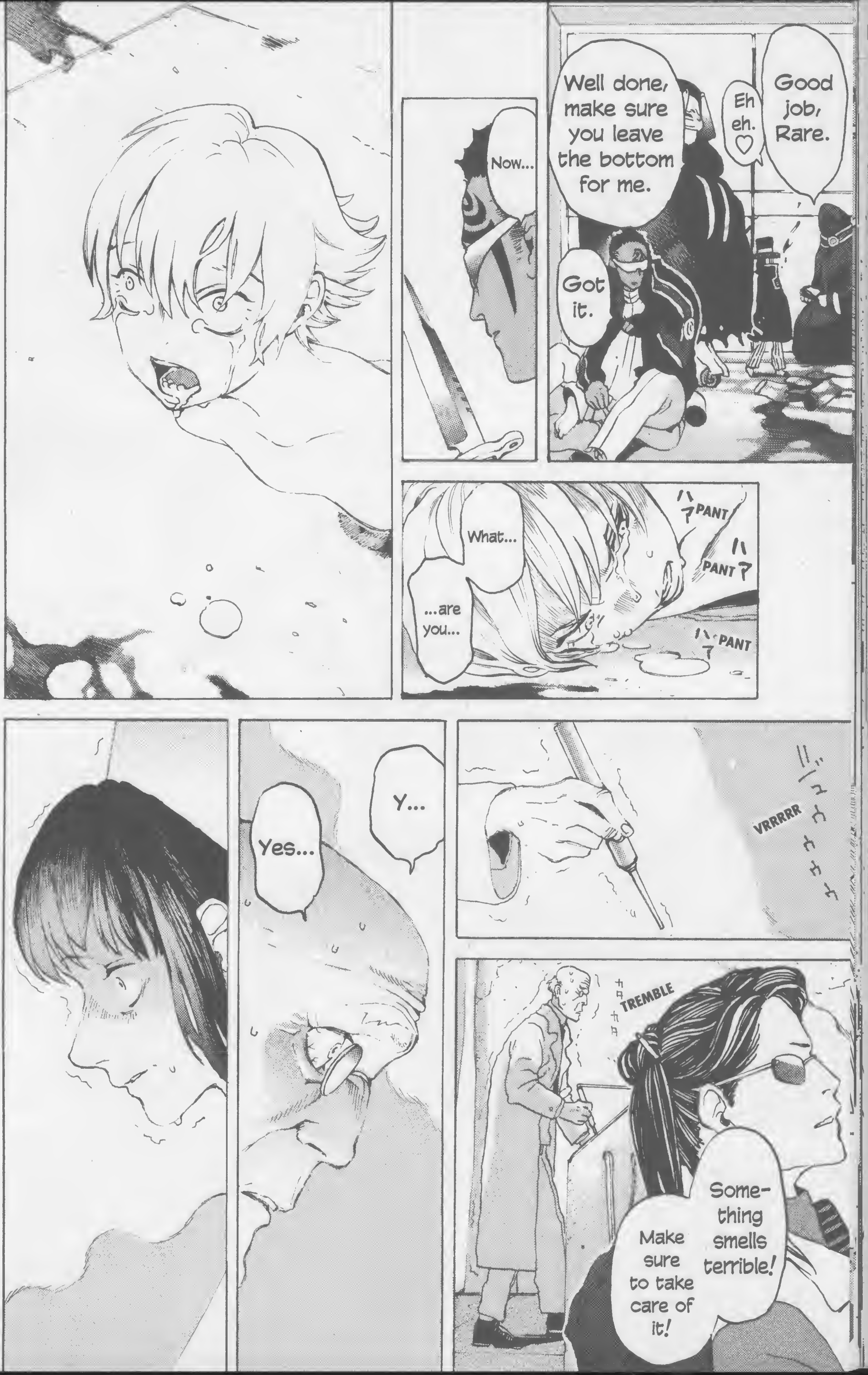

Y-You cut him!
Ahhhhh!!
TILT
コテッ
Oops! ♡
Oops! ♡
Hey.
Make sure you clean that mess up.
M-
Mr. Shell!!
What is going on?!
I told you...
...everything is new.
Just like my memories...
It's out with the old, in with the new.

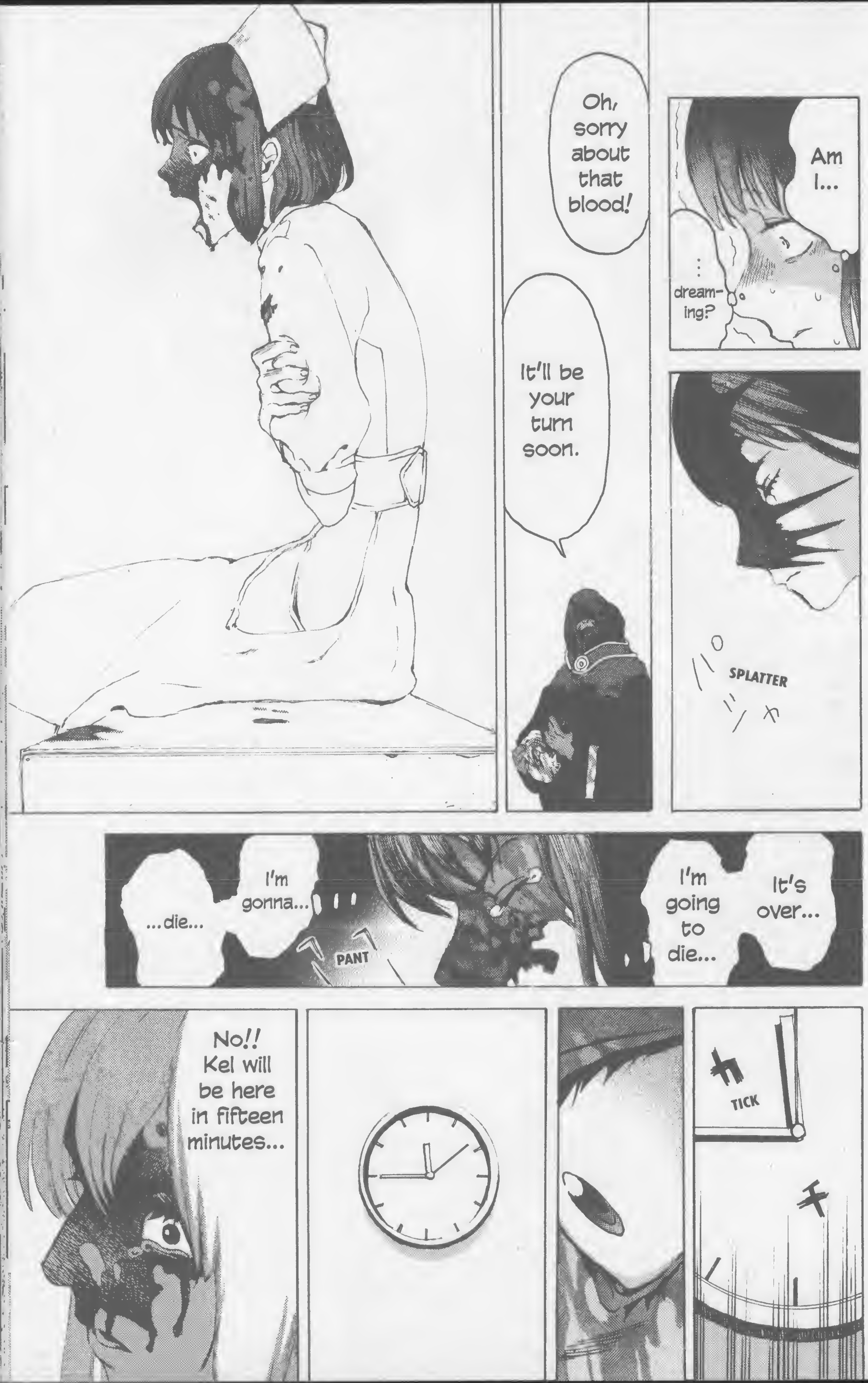

I'm gonna kill you...
...Mr. Shell!!
You can't.
You don't have any arms.
SHHHHH
ジュウウウウ
Robot Punch!
Here it is... Isn't that weird?
Ah...
Ah...

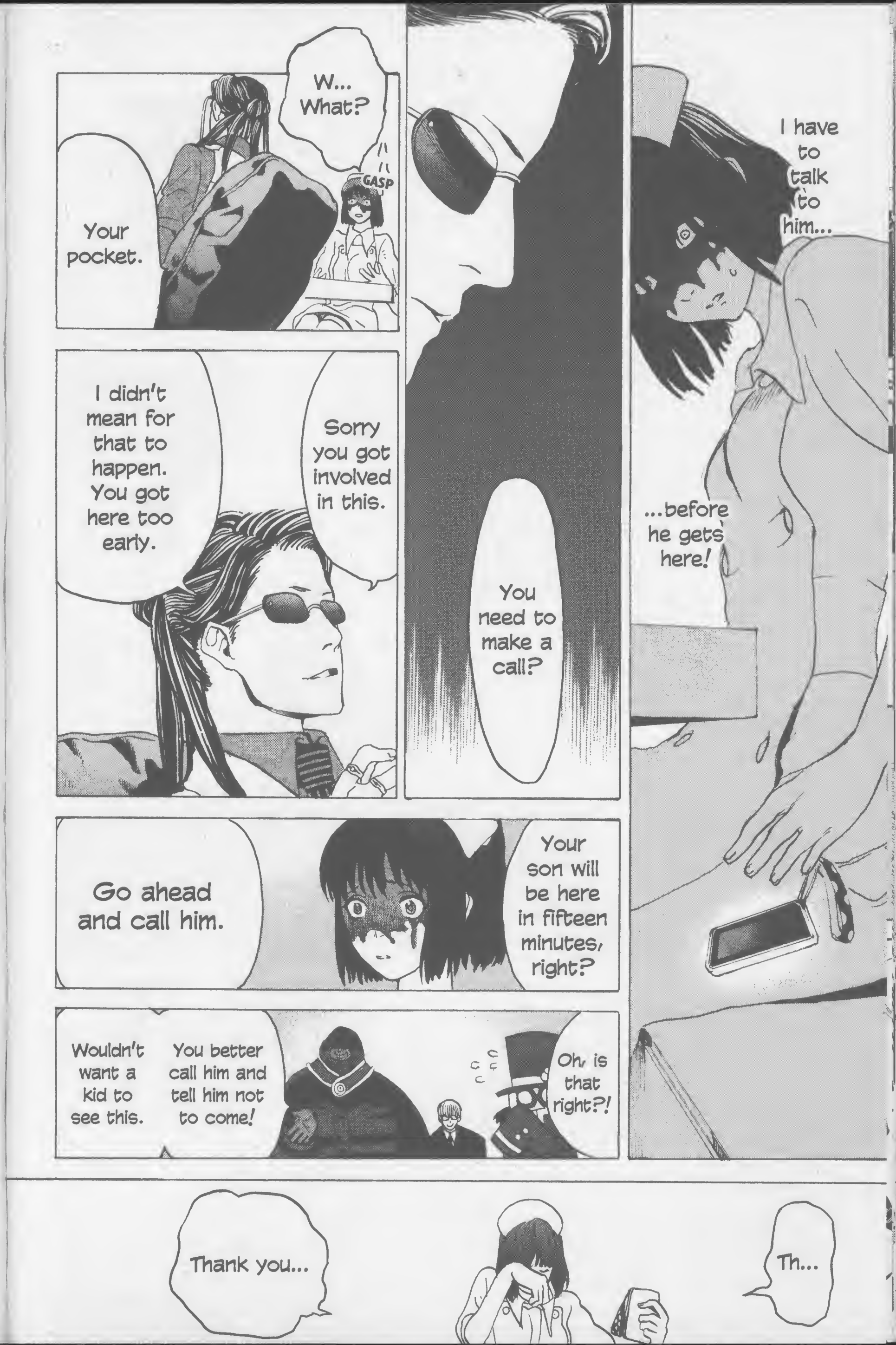

Aaaahhh!!
......!!!!
Hey! Medium!
Let's be careful with the girl when we kill her.
Make her take it off.
Okay, but...
...wait a second.
HMM
I need to choose one.
TMP
Nah! I'm gonna strip her first!
!!
TMP
Oh?

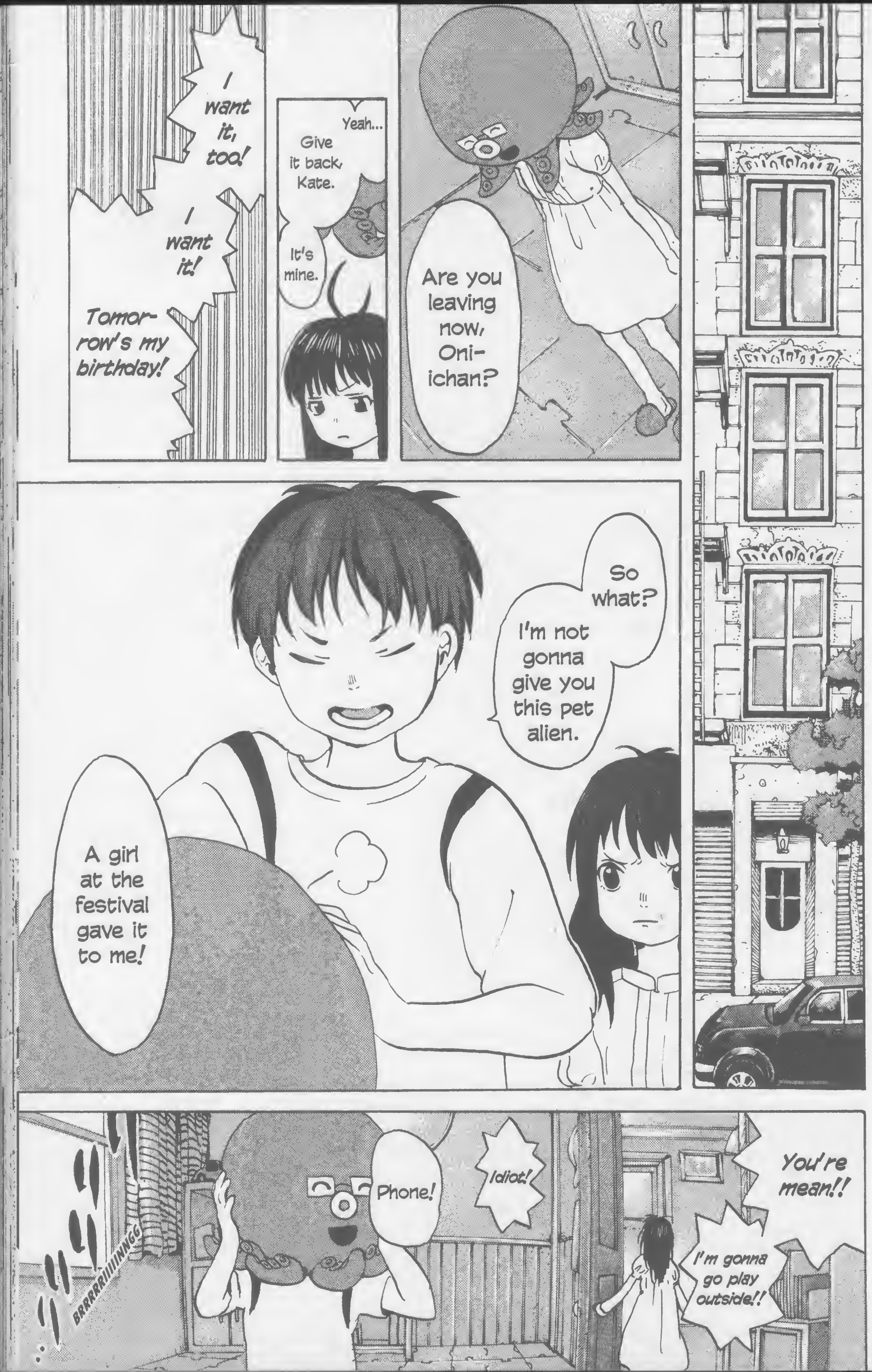

TAT
OWWW!
TAT
TAT
Shit! Bullet-proof vests?
CHOMP
That is so cool!
CHOMP
I want one, too!
If guns won't work...!!
THUD
Aggghh!
SQUISH

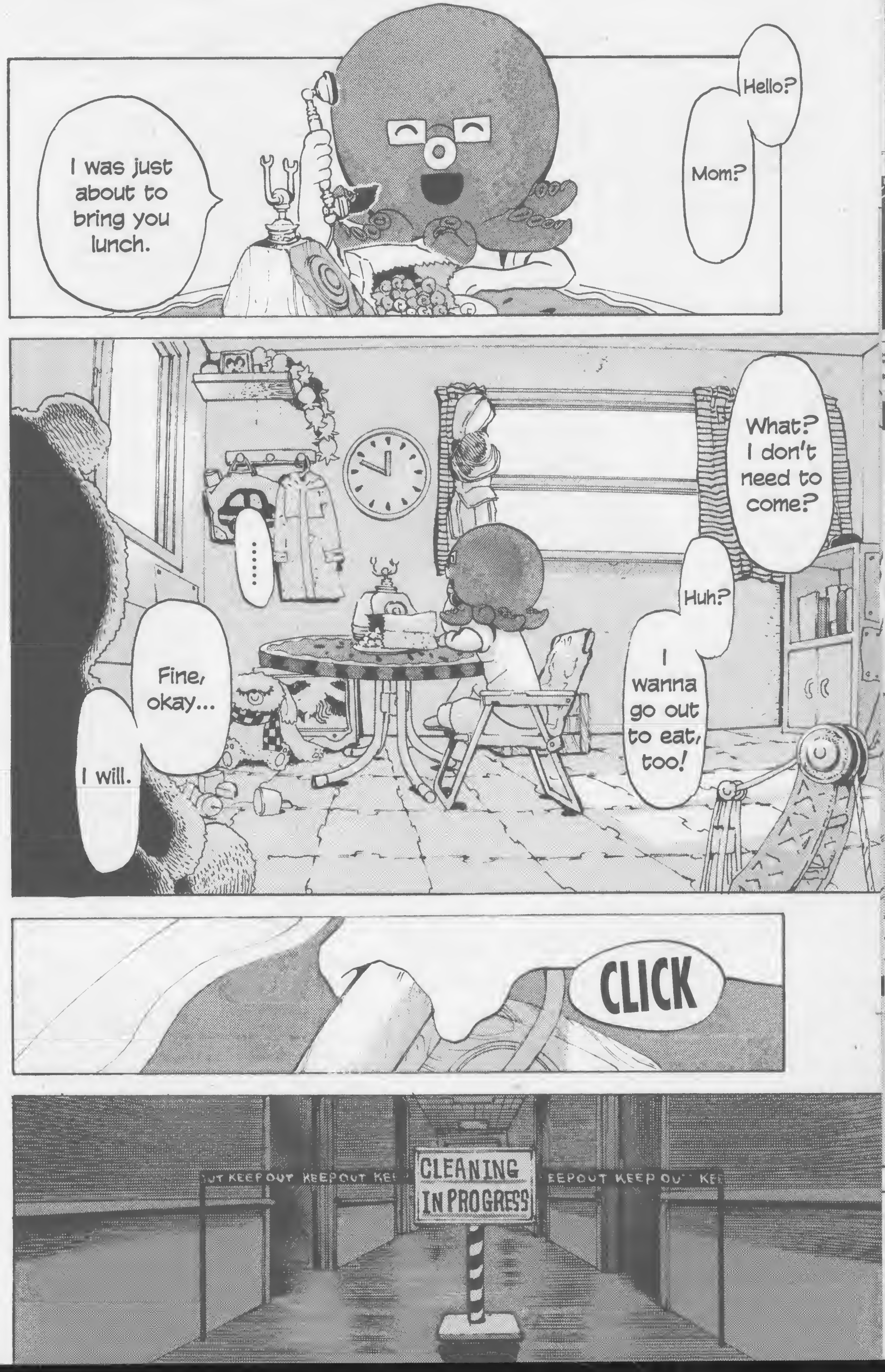

Knock it off.
POP
Gyaa!
Aahh!
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
Face! Aim for their faces!
The face? Got it!!
SLASH
SNAAAP
......!!

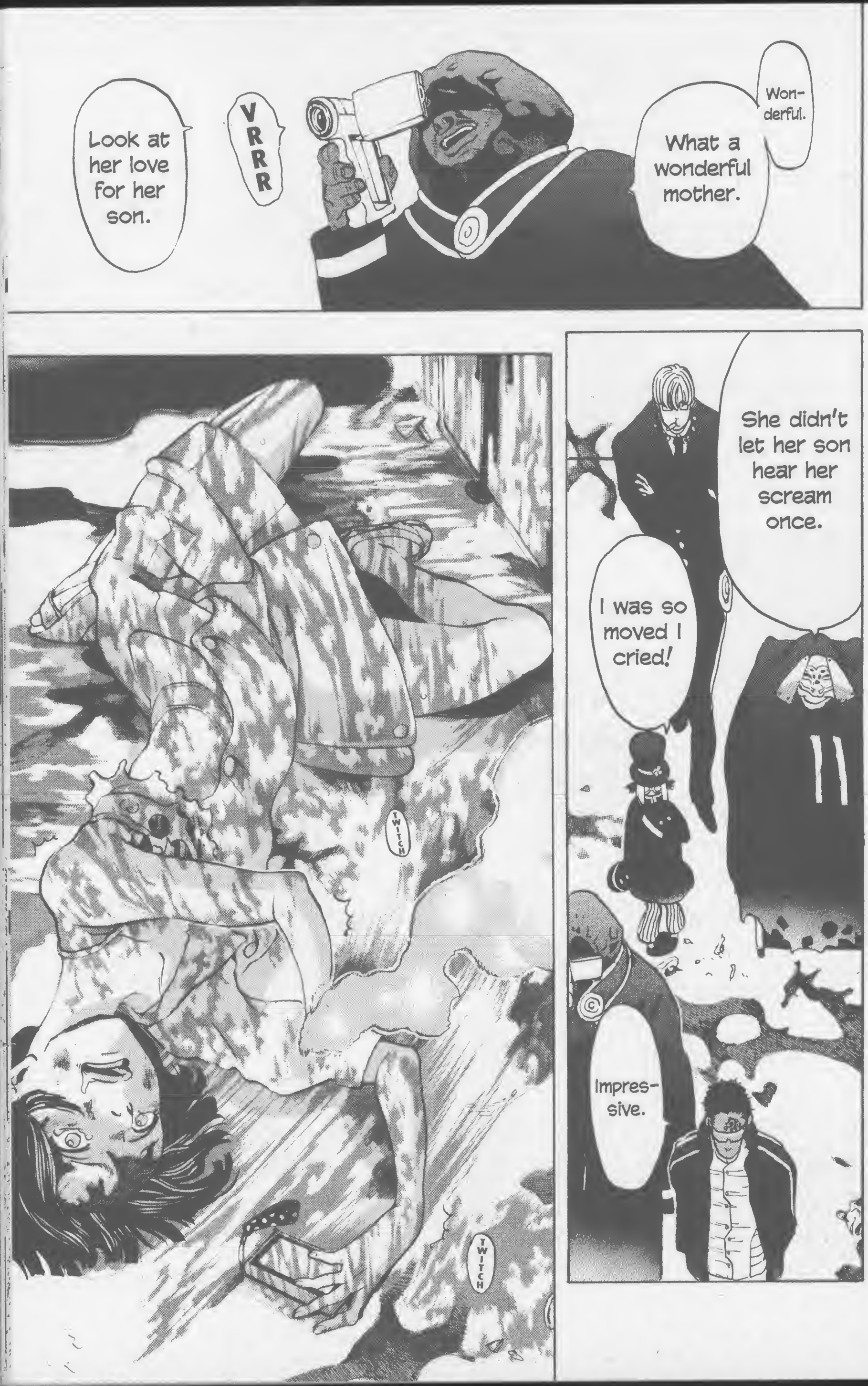

Good job, Rare.
Eh eh. ♡
Well done, make sure you leave the bottom for me.
Got it.
Now...
PANT
PANT
PANT
What...
...are you...
VRRRRR
Y...
Yes...
TREMBLE
Something smells terrible!
Make sure to take care of it!

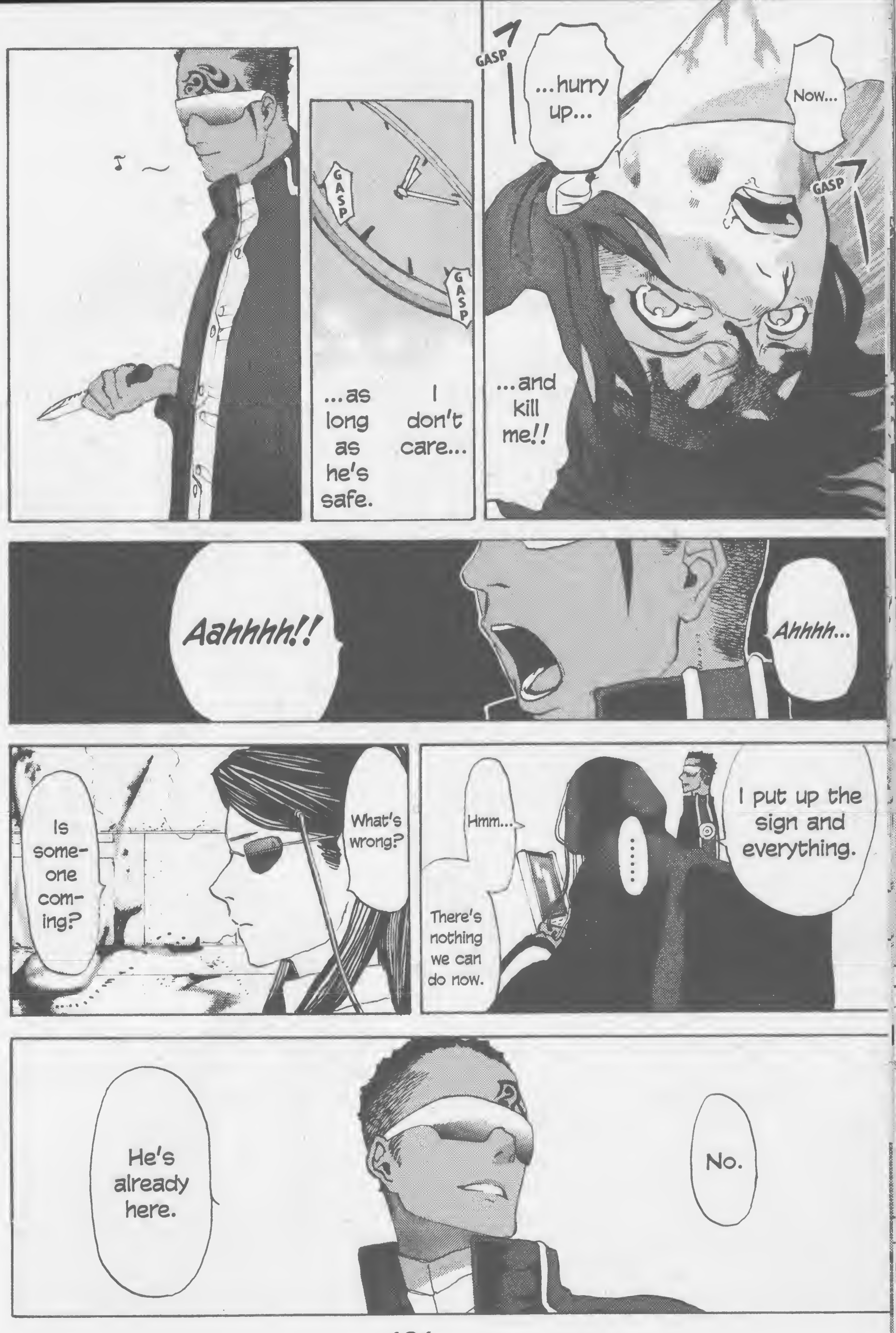

Am I...
...dreaming?
Oh, sorry about that blood!
It'll be your turn soon.
SPLATTER
It's over...
I'm going to die...
PANT
I'm gonna...
...die...
TICK
No!! Kel will be here in fifteen minutes...

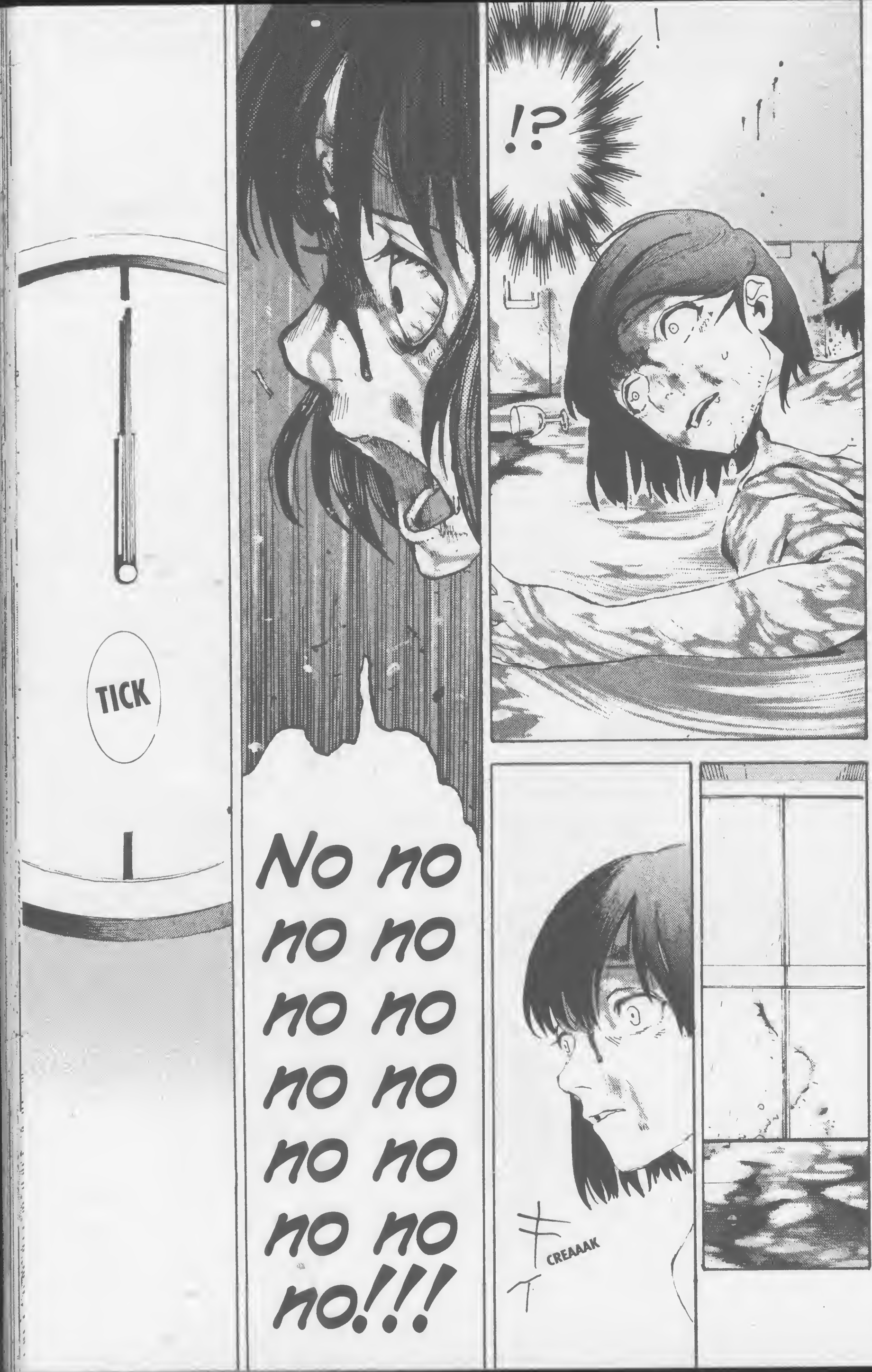

I have to talk to him...
...before he gets here!
You need to make a call?
W... What?
GASP
Your pocket.
Sorry you got involved in this.
I didn't mean for that to happen. You got here too early.
Your son will be here in fifteen minutes, right?
Go ahead and call him.
Oh, is that right?!
You better call him and tell him not to come!
Wouldn't want a kid to see this.
Th...
Thank you...

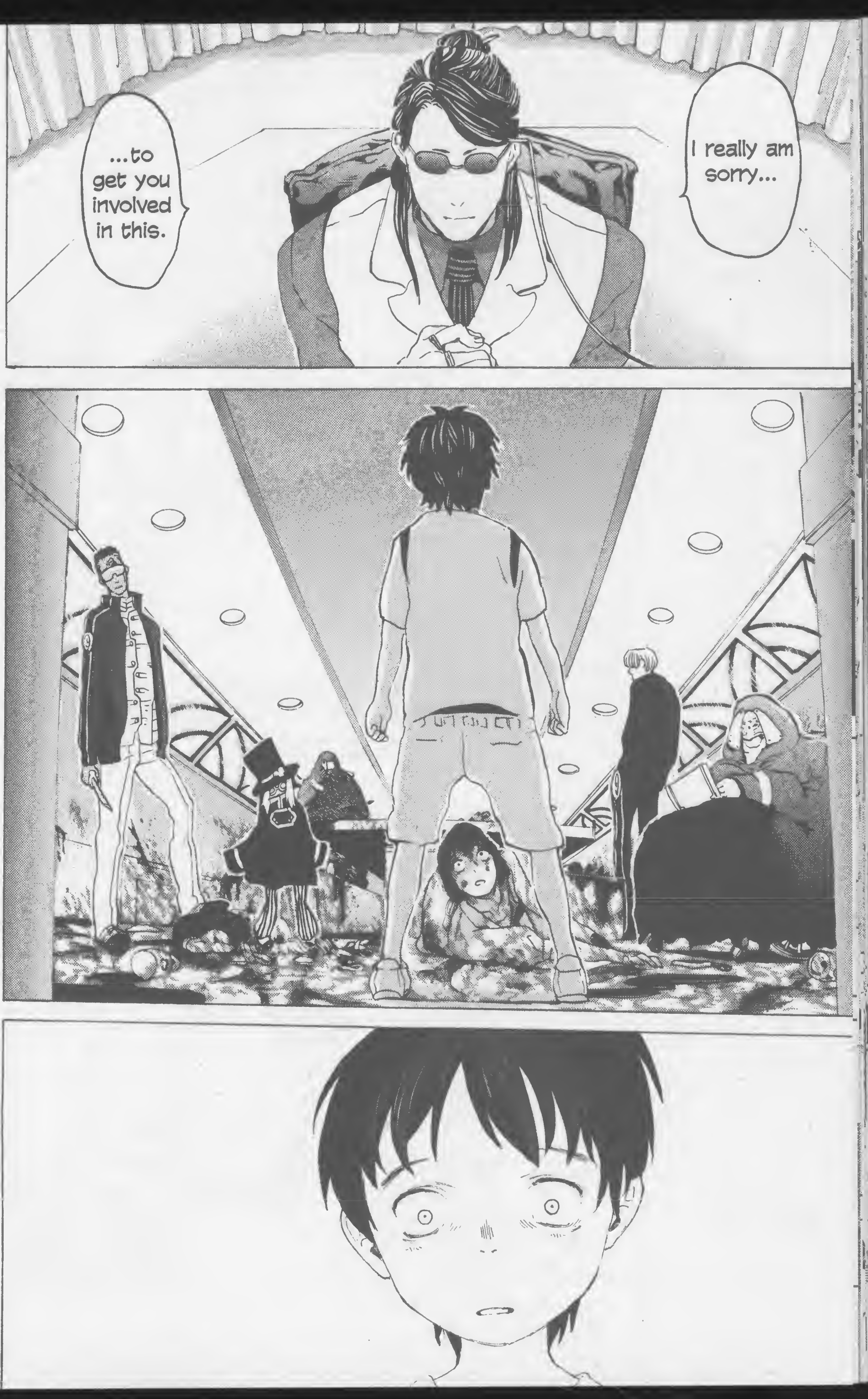

Are you leaving now, Oni-ichan?
Yeah...
Give it back, Kate.
It's mine.
I want it, too!
I want it!
Tomorrow's my birthday!
So what?
I'm not gonna give you this pet alien.
A girl at the festival gave it to me!
You're mean!!
I'm gonna go play outside!!
Idiot!
Phone!
BRRRRIIIIIINNGG

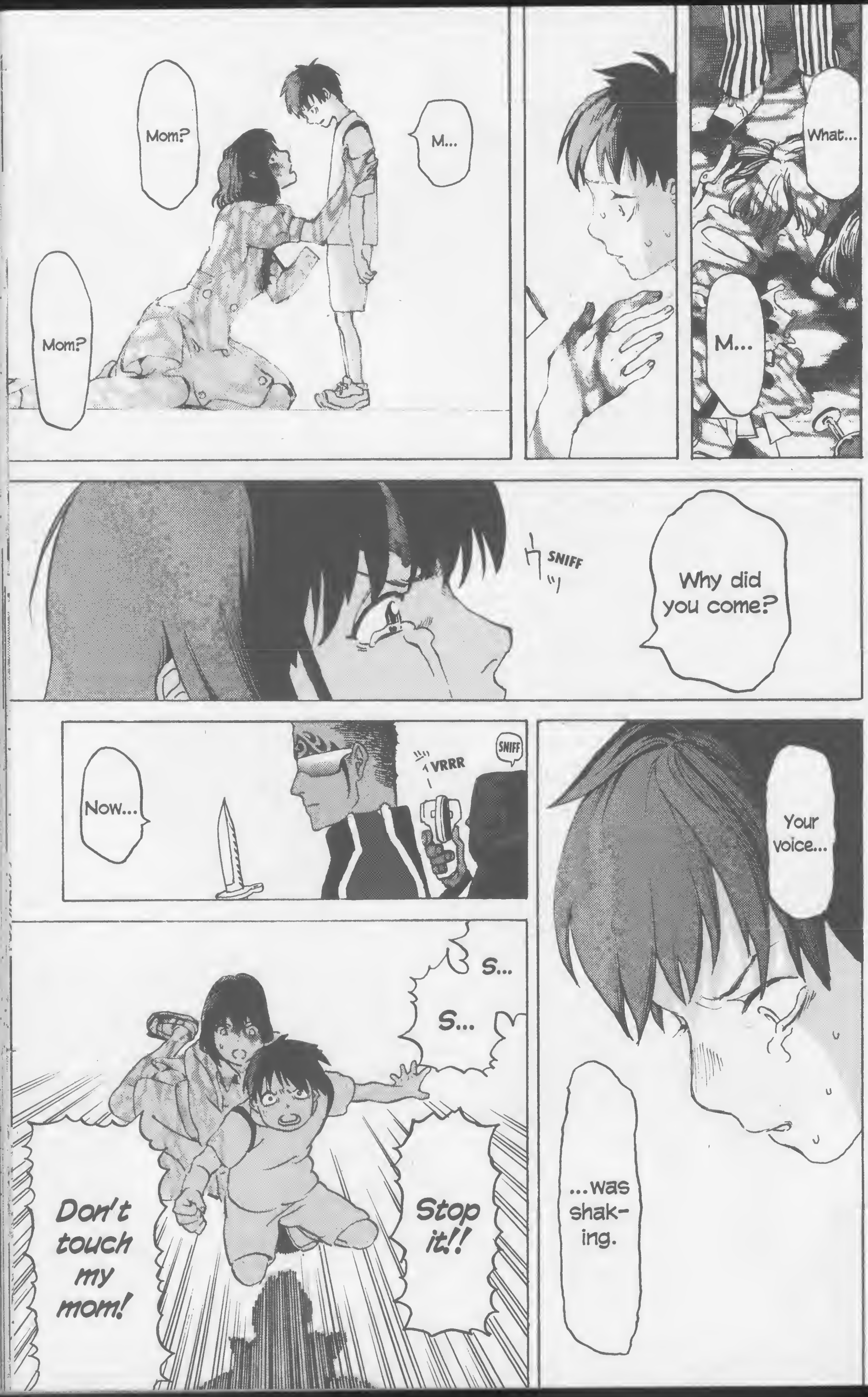

Hello?
Mom?
I was just about to bring you lunch.
What? I don't need to come?
Huh?
I wanna go out to eat, too!
……
Fine, okay...
I will.
CLICK
CLEANING IN PROGRESS
KEEP OUT KEEP OUT

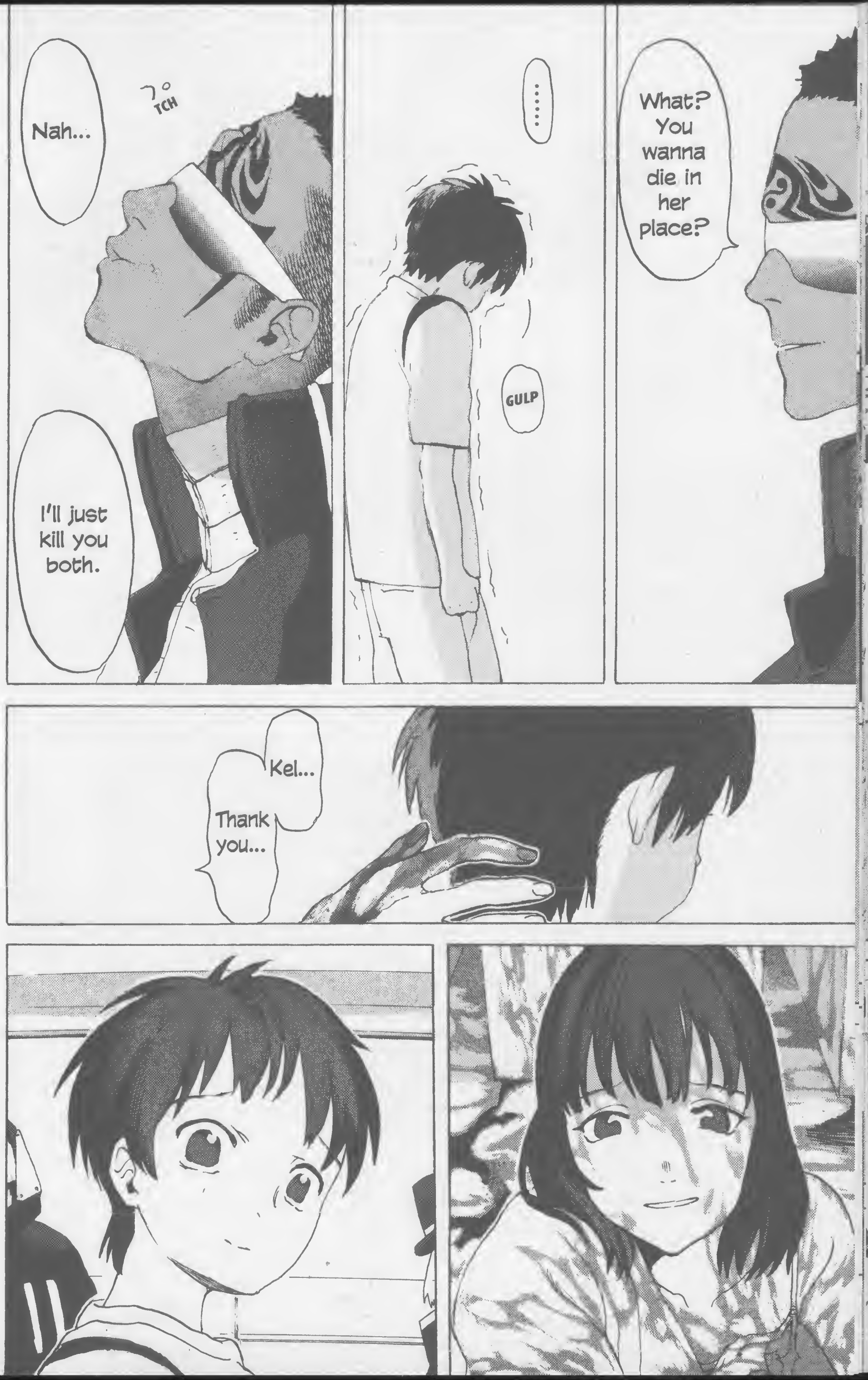

Won-derful.
What a wonderful mother.
VRRR
Look at her love for her son.
She didn't let her son hear her scream once.
I was so moved I cried!
Impres-sive.
TWITCH
TWITCH

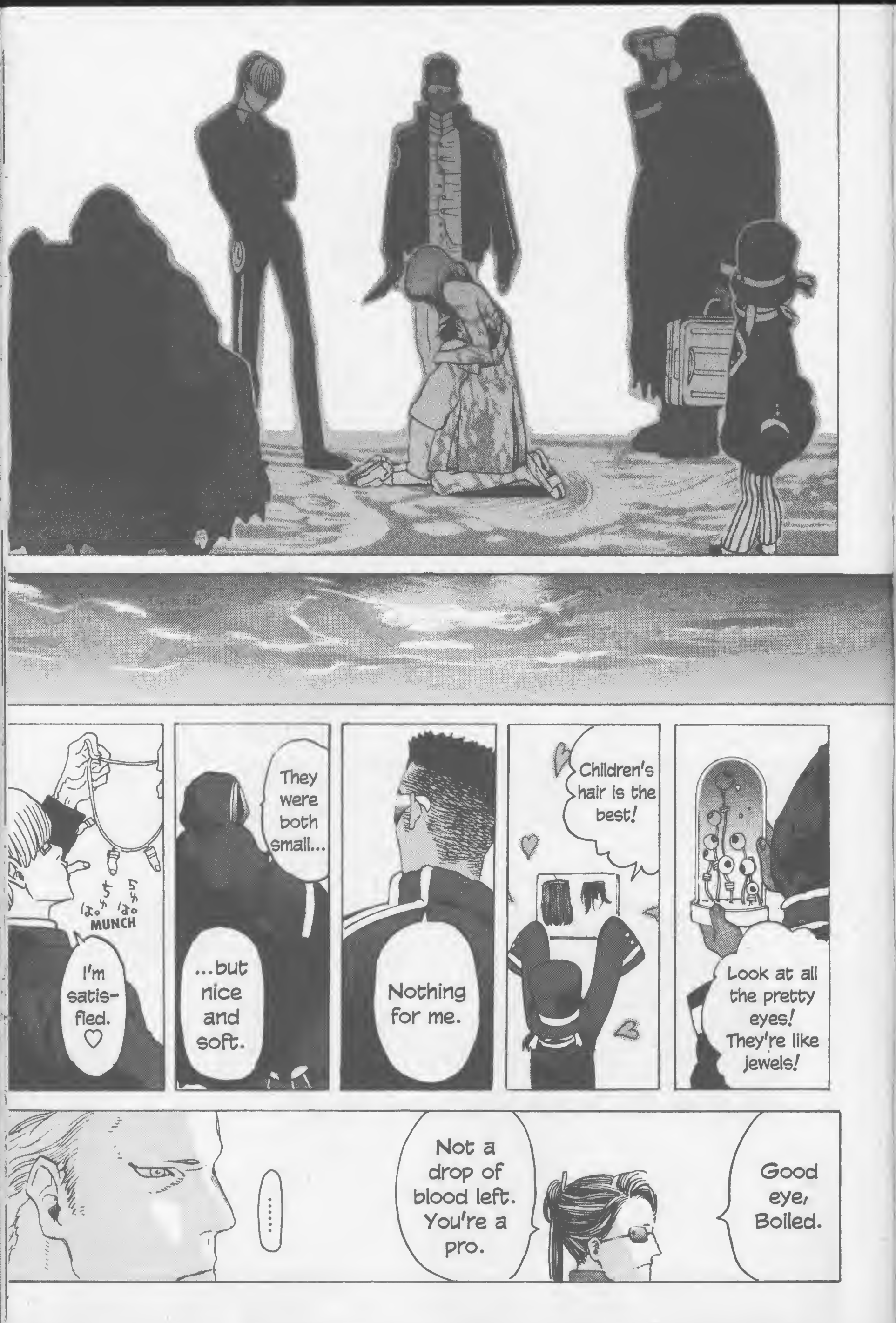

GASP
Now...
...hurry up...
GASP
...and kill me!!
GASP
GASP
I don't care...
...as long as he's safe.
♪~
Ahhhh...
Aahhhh!!
I put up the sign and everything.
......
Hmm...
There's nothing we can do now.
What's wrong?
Is someone coming?
No.
He's already here.


!
!?
CREAAAK
No no no no no no no no no no no no no!!!
TICK

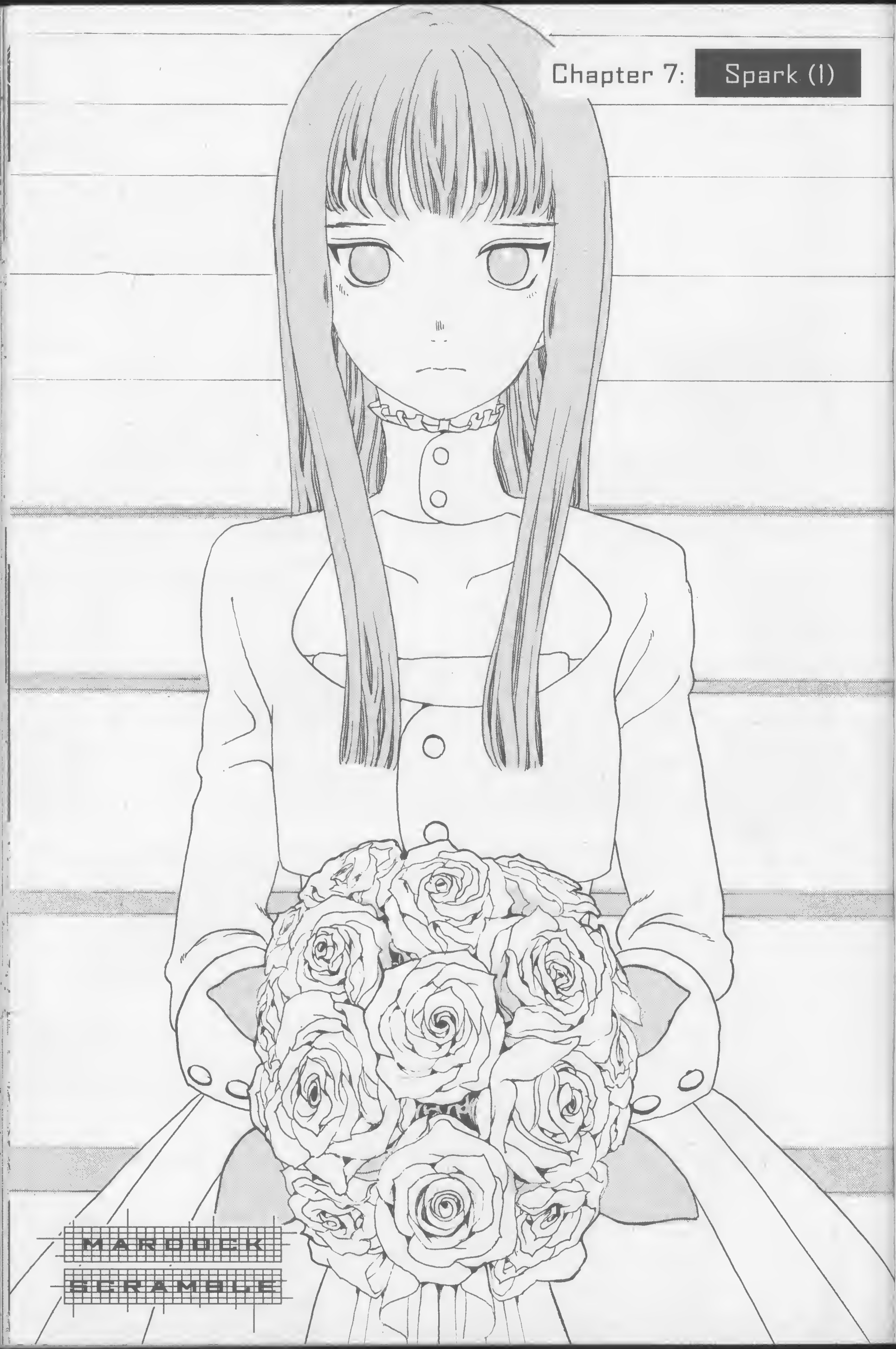

I really am sorry...
...to get you involved in this.

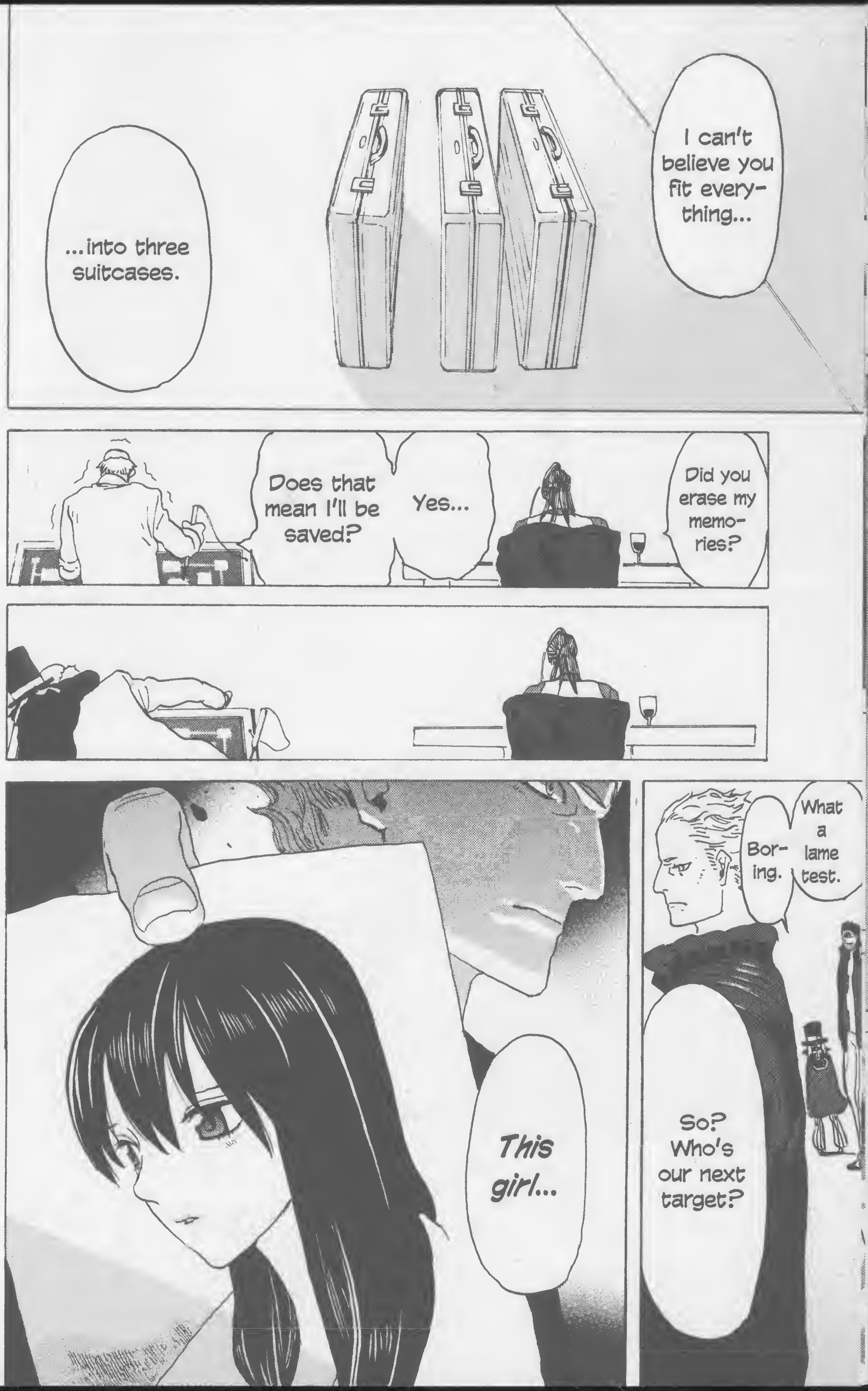

What...
M...
M...
Mom?
Mom?
SNIFF
Why did you come?
Your voice...
...was shaking.
SNIFF
VRRR
Now...
S...
S...
Stop it!!
Don't touch my mom!

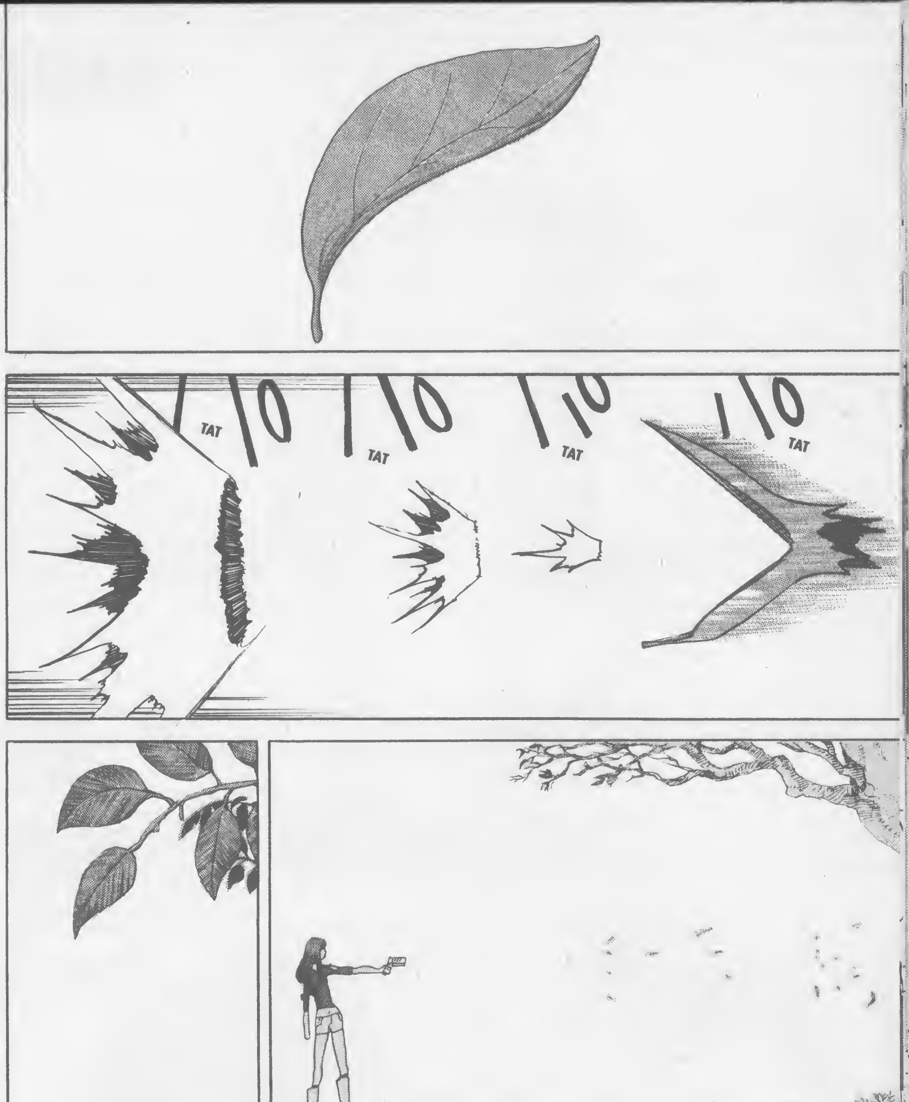

What? You wanna die in her place?
......
GULP
Nah...
TCH
I'll just kill you both.
Kel...
Thank you...

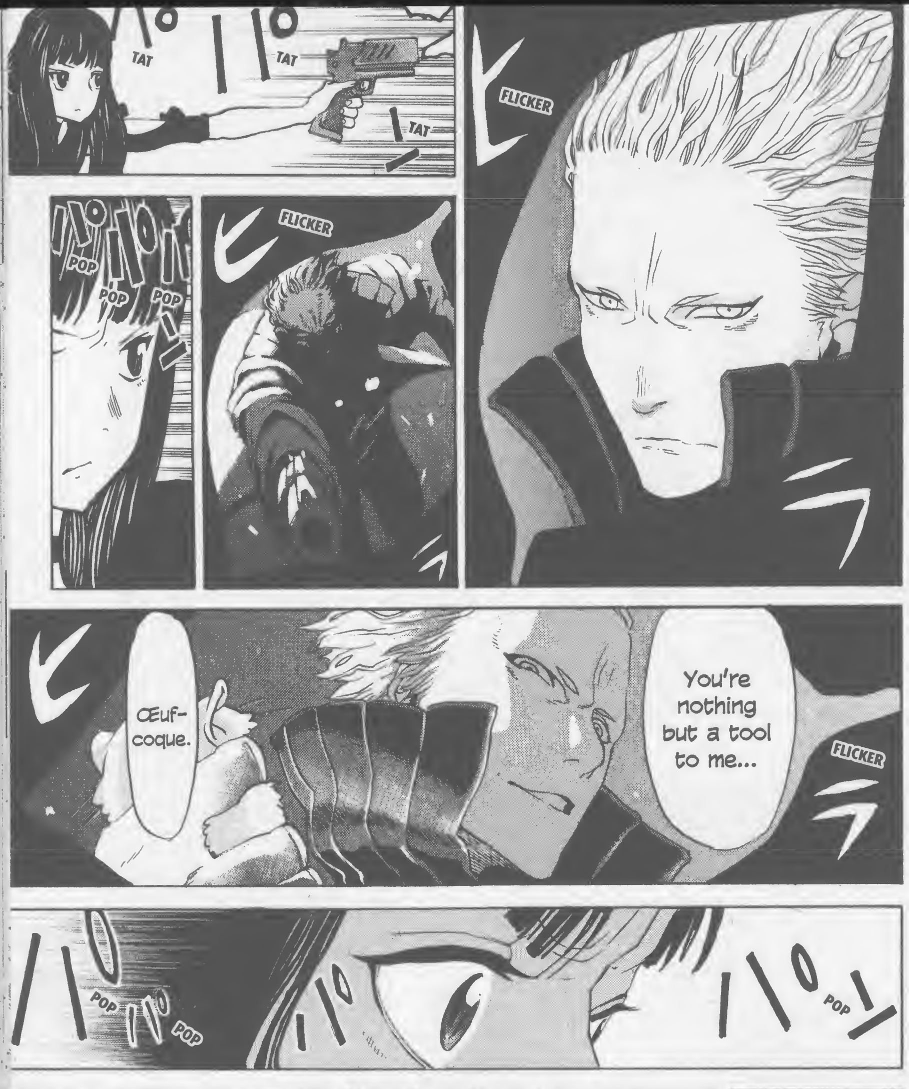

Look at all the pretty eyes! They're like jewels!
Children's hair is the best!
Nothing for me.
They were both small...
...but nice and soft.
MUNCH
I'm satisfied. ♡
Good eye, Boiled.
Not a drop of blood left. You're a pro.
......

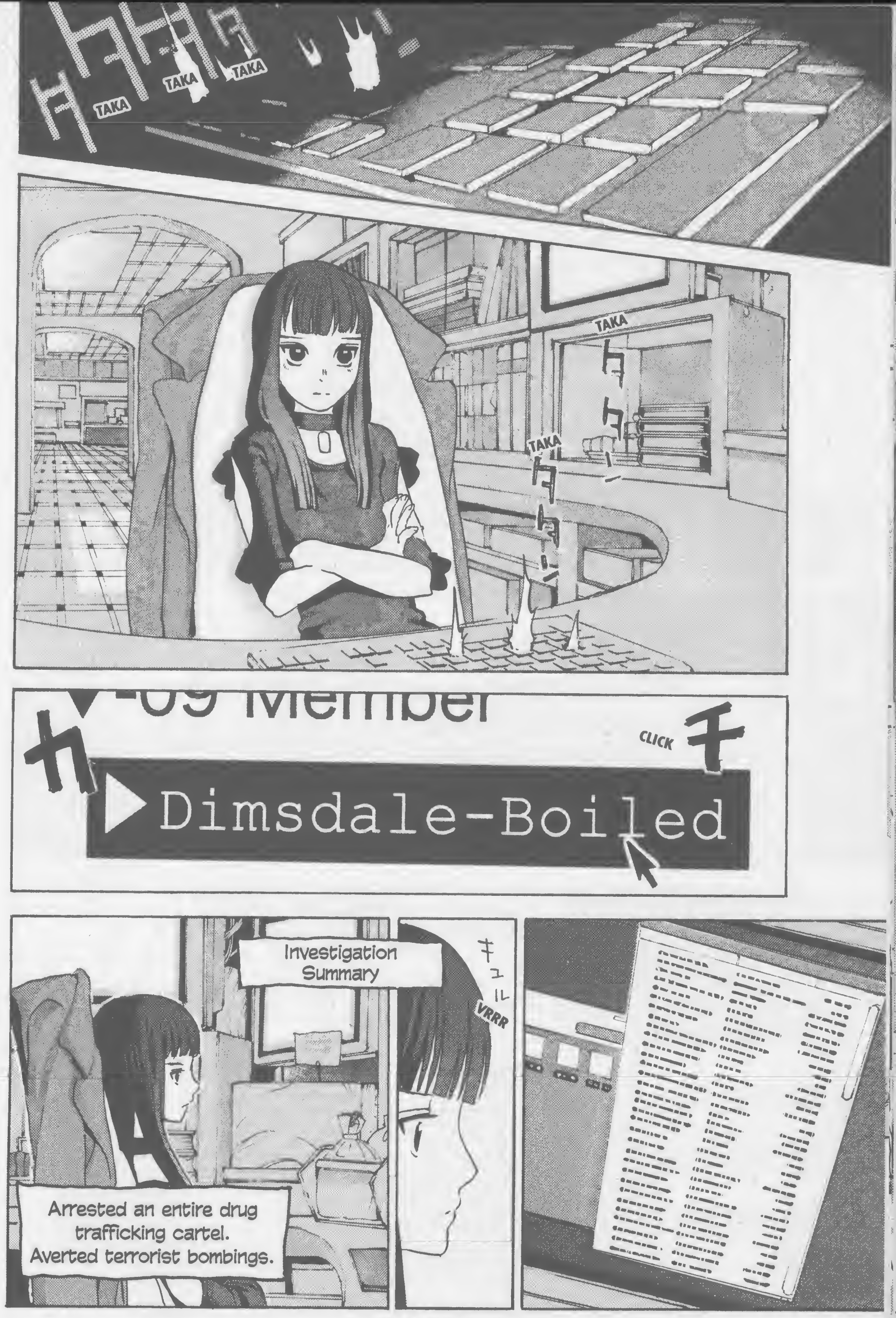
Chapter 7: Spark (1)

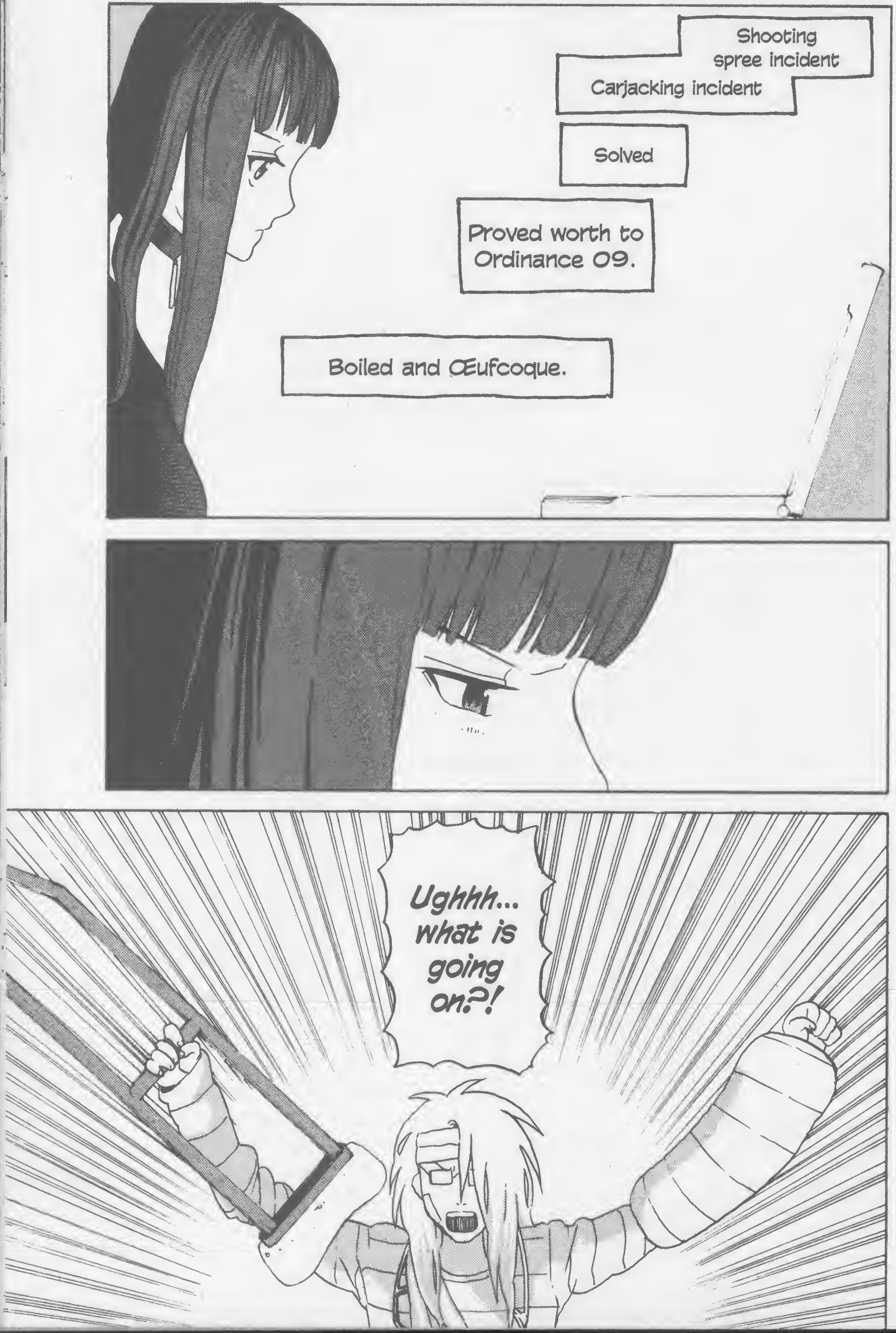

MARDOCK
SCRAMBLE

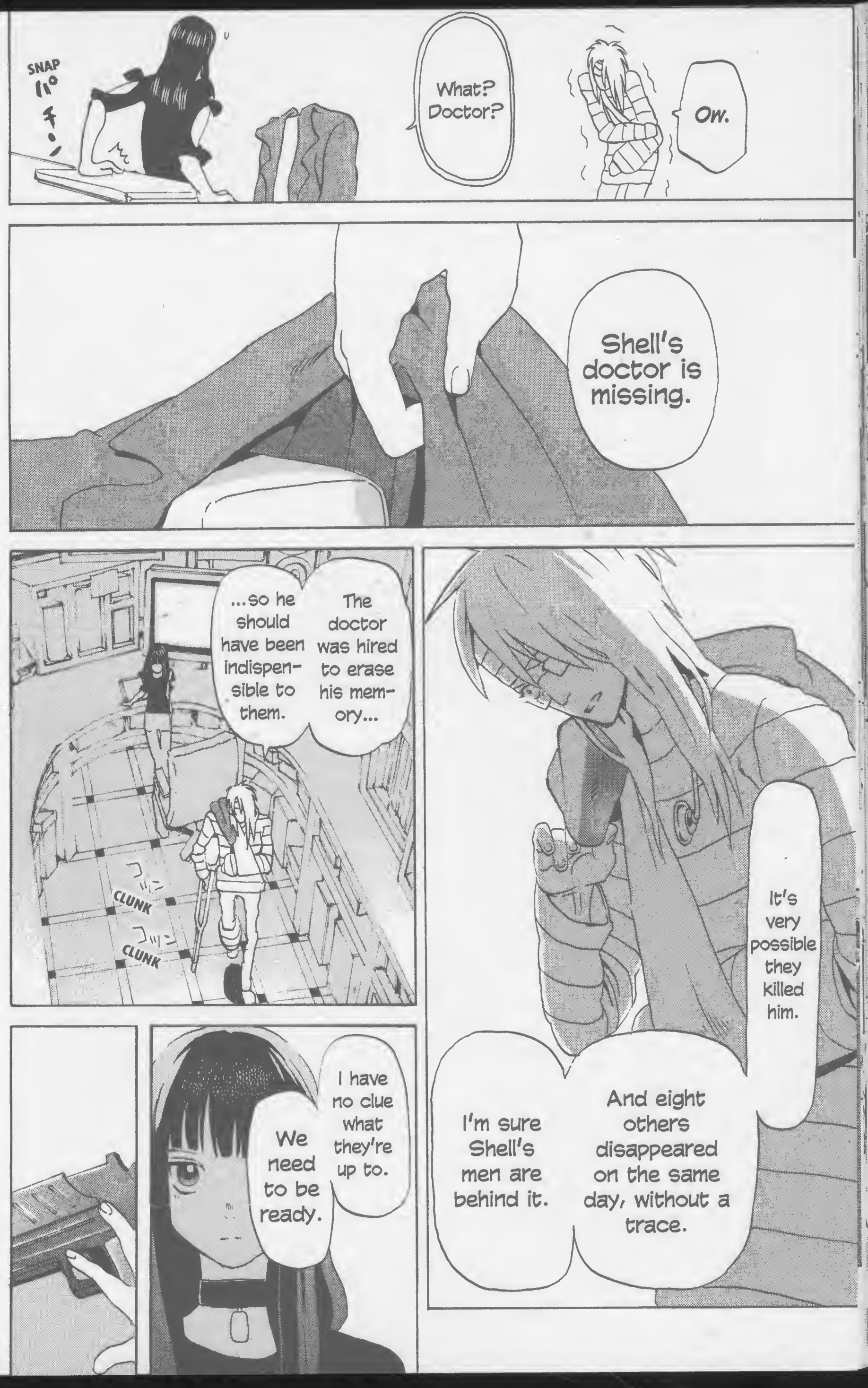

I can't believe you fit everything...
...into three suitcases.
Did you erase my memories?
Yes...
Does that mean I'll be saved?
What a lame test.
Boring.
So? Who's our next target?
This girl...

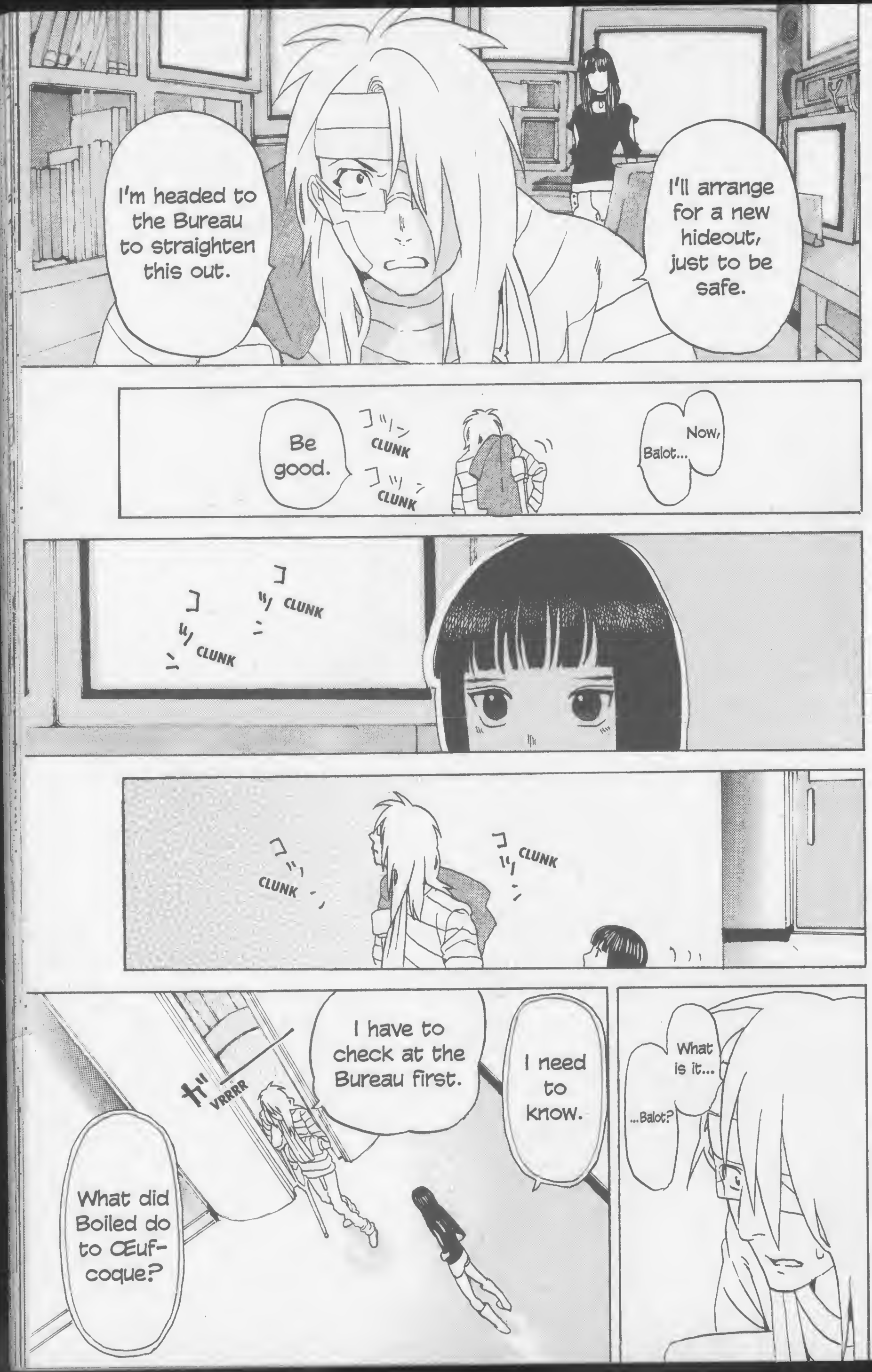

TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT

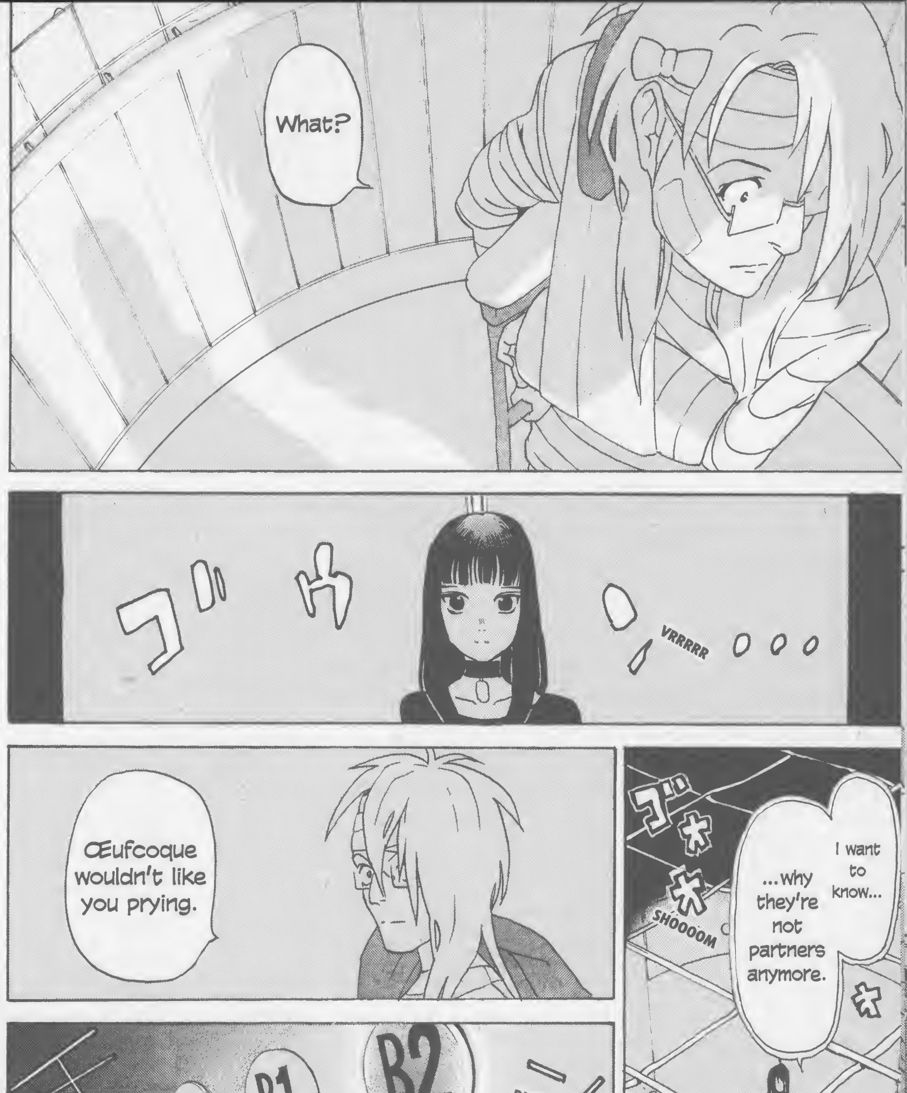

FLICKER
TAT
TAT
TAT
FLICKER
POP
POP
POP
FLICKER
You're nothing but a tool to me...
Œuf-coque.
POP
POP
POP
POP
SIGH...

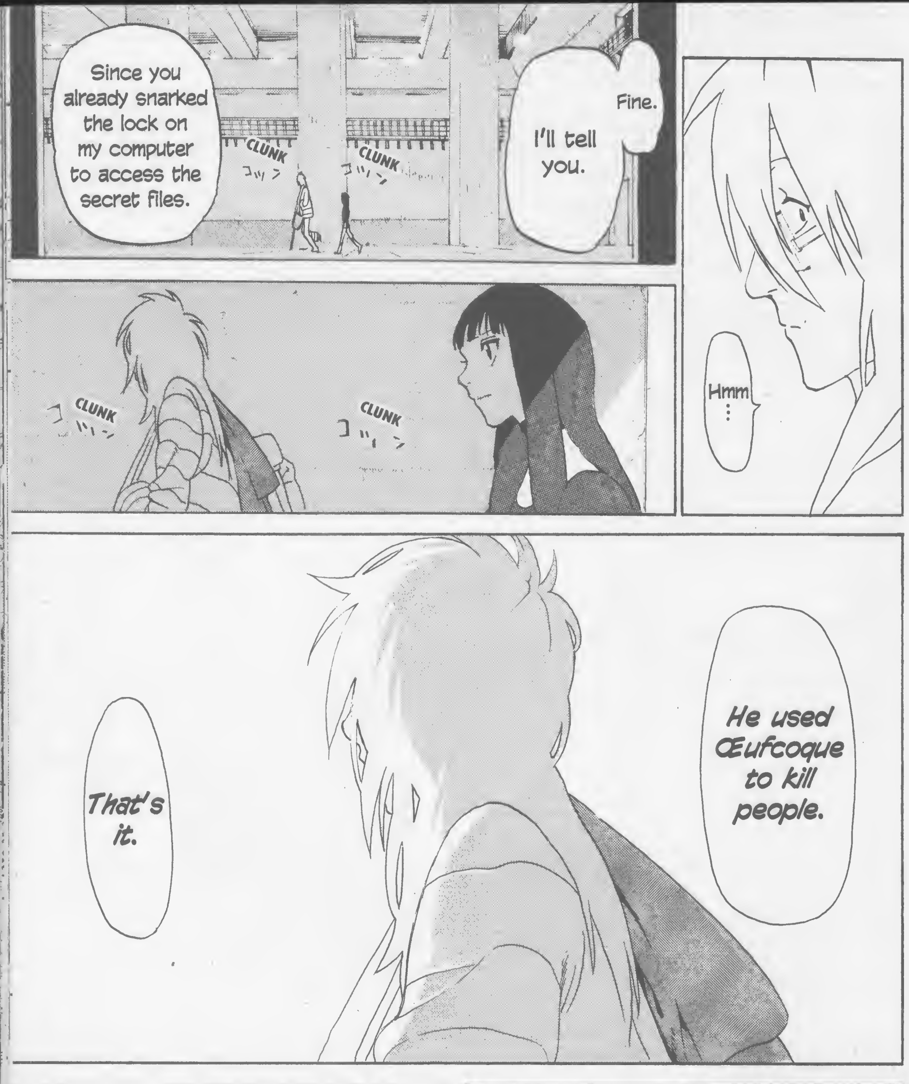

TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
-09 Member
CLICK
Dimsdale-Boiled
Investigation Summary
VRRR
Arrested an entire drug trafficking cartel. Averted terrorist bombings.

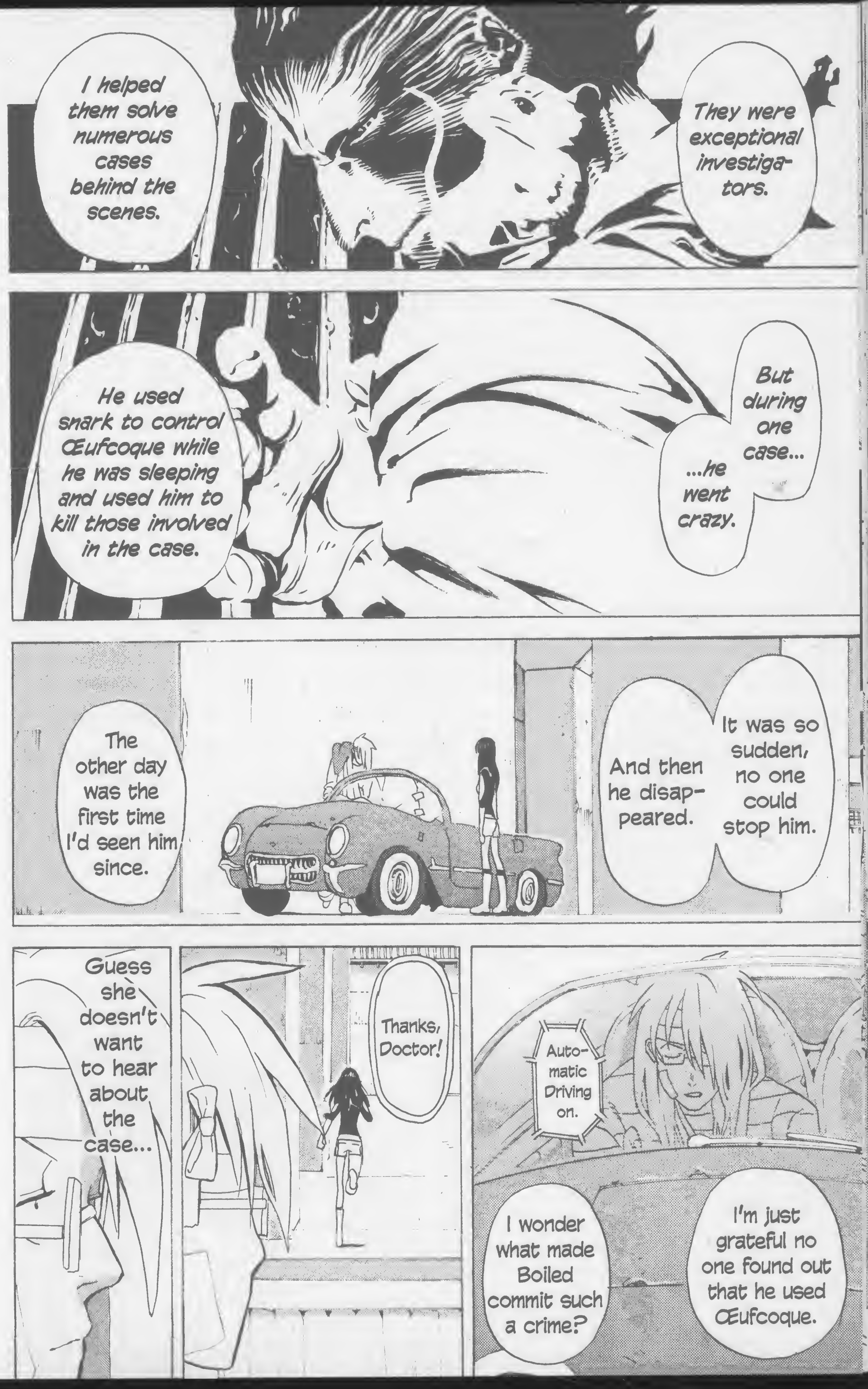

Shooting spree incident
Carjacking incident
Solved
Proved worth to Ordinance 09.
Boiled and Œufcoque.
Ughhh... what is going on?!

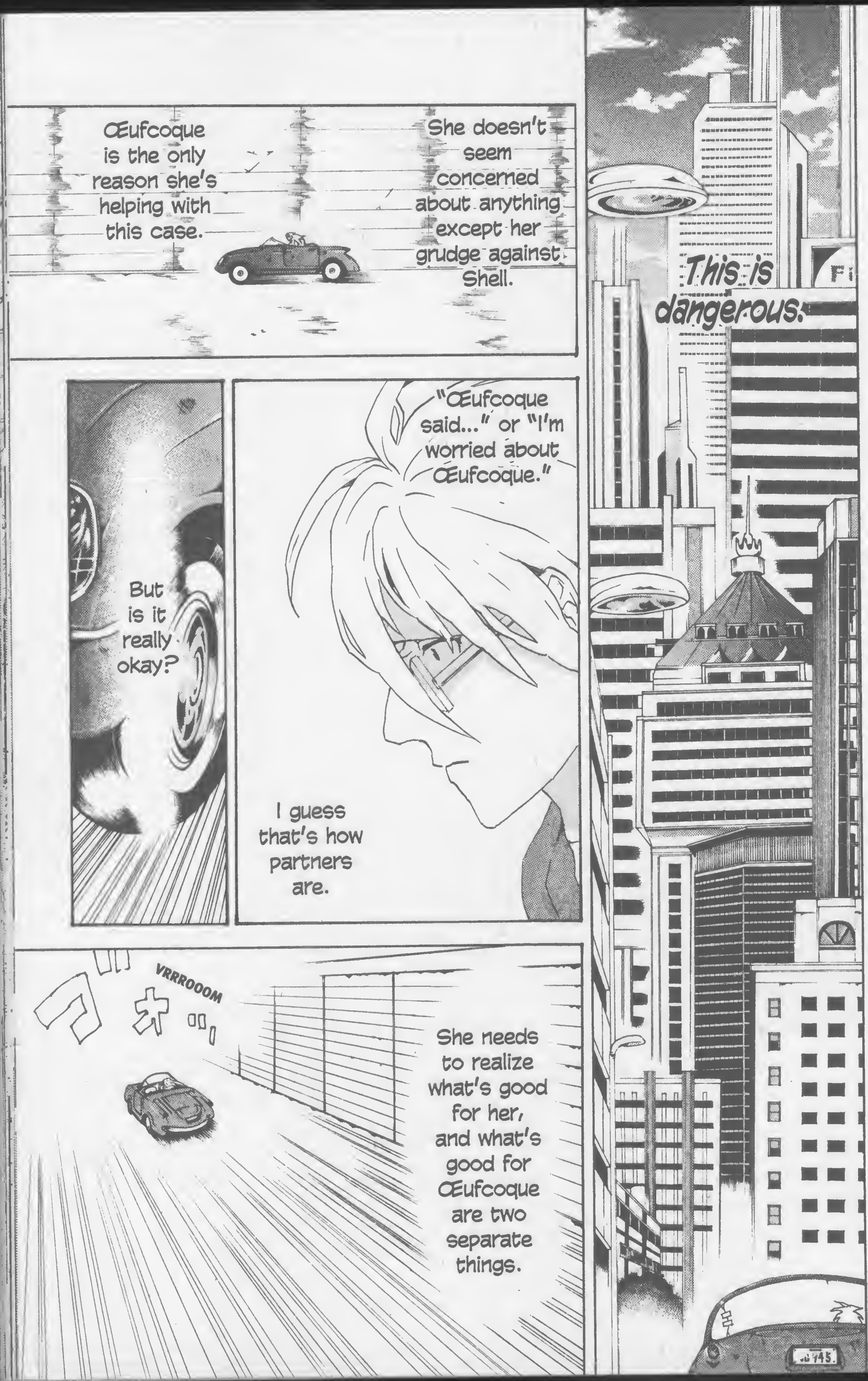

SNAP
パチン
What? Doctor?
Ow.
Shell's doctor is missing.
The doctor was hired to erase his memory...
...so he should have been indispensible to them.
CLUNK
CLUNK
It's very possible they killed him.
And eight others disappeared on the same day, without a trace.
I'm sure Shell's men are behind it.
I have no clue what they're up to.
We need to be ready.

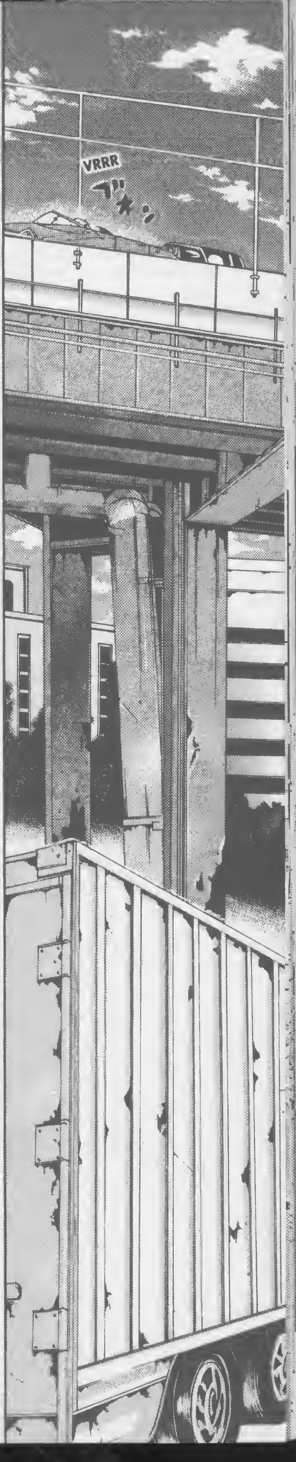

I'll arrange for a new hideout, just to be safe.
I'm headed to the Bureau to straighten this out.
Now, Balot...
CLUNK
CLUNK
Be good.
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
What is it...
...Balot?
I need to know.
I have to check at the Bureau first.
VRRRR
What did Boiled do to Œuf-coque?

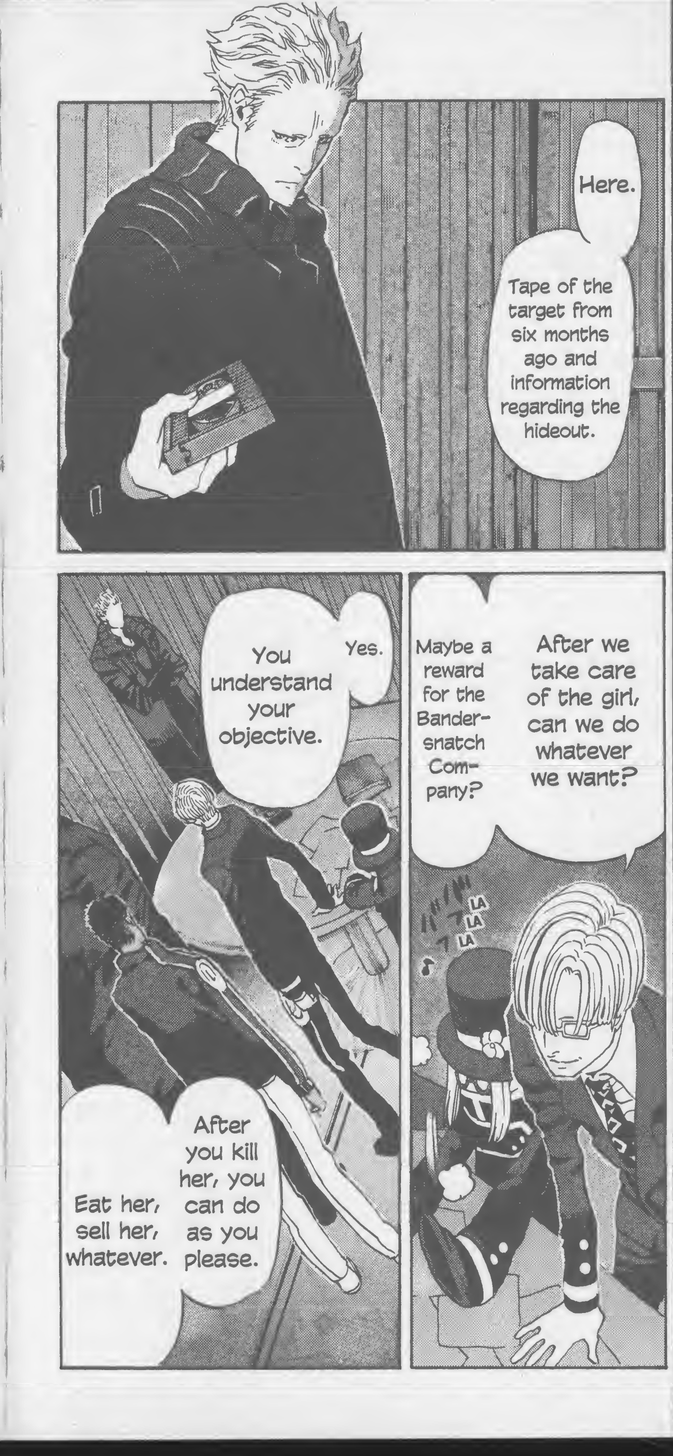

What?
ゴウン
VRRRRR
I want to know...
...why they're not partners anymore.
ゴオオ
SHOOOOM
ォ
Œufcoque wouldn't like you prying.
3 2 1 B1 B2
DING
I know.
But I want to know, for him.

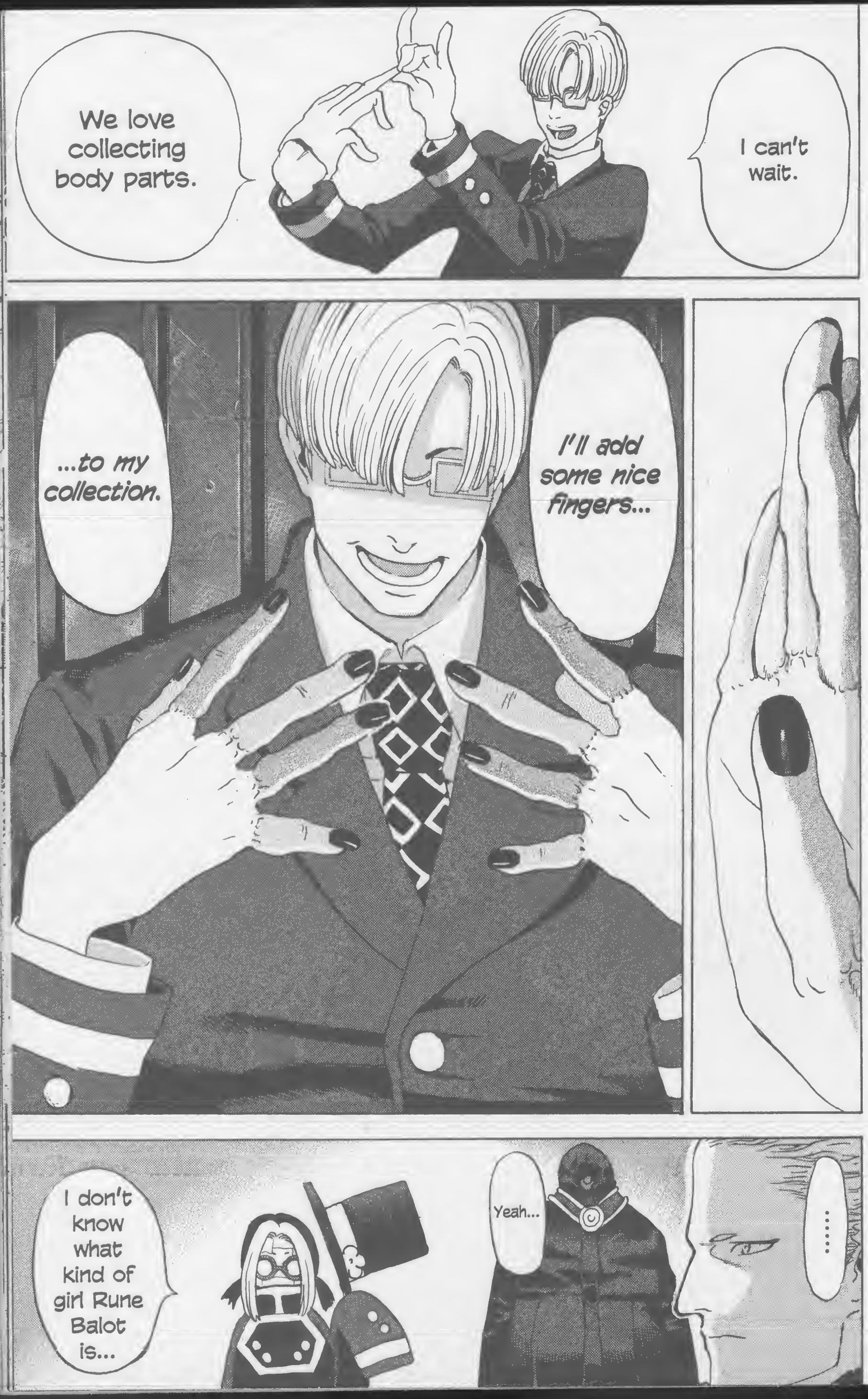

Since you already snarked the lock on my computer to access the secret files.
Fine.
I'll tell you.
CLUNK
コッン
CLUNK
コッン
CLUNK
コッン
CLUNK
コッン
Hmm…
He used Œufcoque to kill people.
That's it.
......
How many?
About...
...twenty.

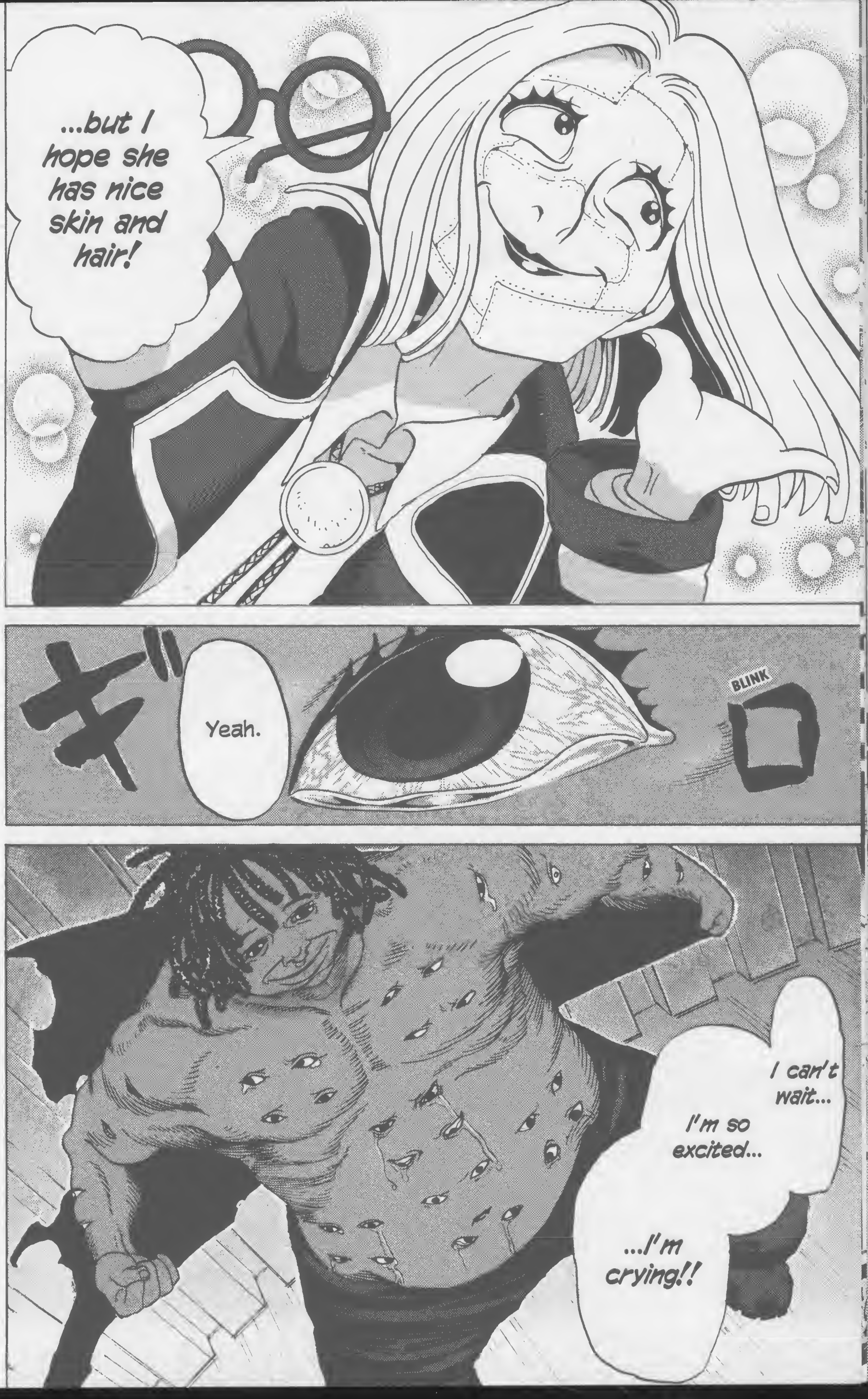

They were exceptional investigators.
I helped them solve numerous cases behind the scenes.
But during one case...
...he went crazy.
He used snark to control Œufcoque while he was sleeping and used him to kill those involved in the case.
It was so sudden, no one could stop him.
And then he disappeared.
The other day was the first time I'd seen him since.
Automatic Driving on.
I'm just grateful no one found out that he used Œufcoque.
I wonder what made Boiled commit such a crime?
Thanks, Doctor!
Guess she doesn't want to hear about the case...

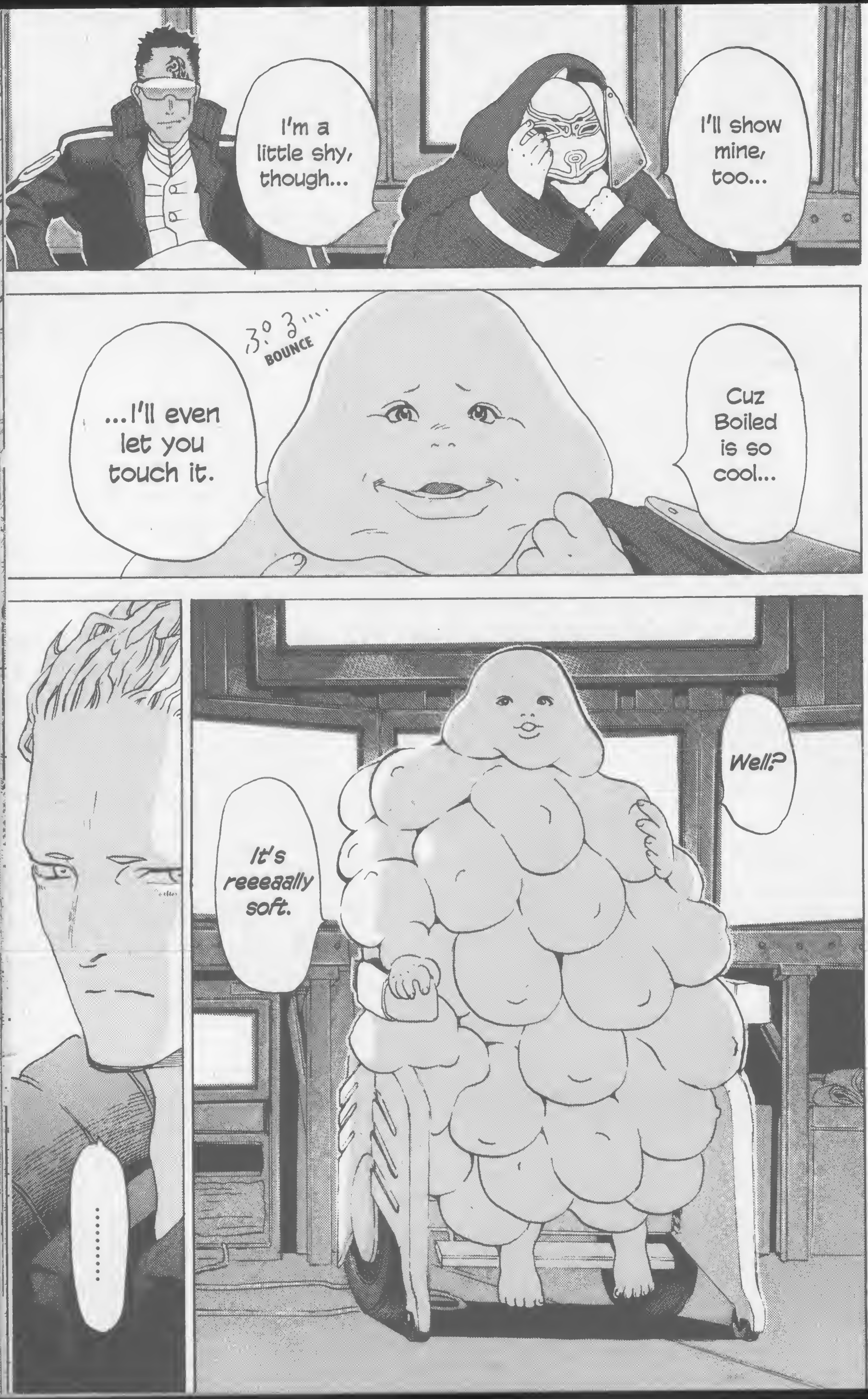

She doesn't seem concerned about anything except her grudge against Shell.
Œufcoque is the only reason she's helping with this case.
"Œufcoque said..." or "I'm worried about Œufcoque."
I guess that's how partners are.
But is it really okay?
She needs to realize what's good for her, and what's good for Œufcoque are two separate things.
ゴォォ
VRRROOOM
This is dangerous.

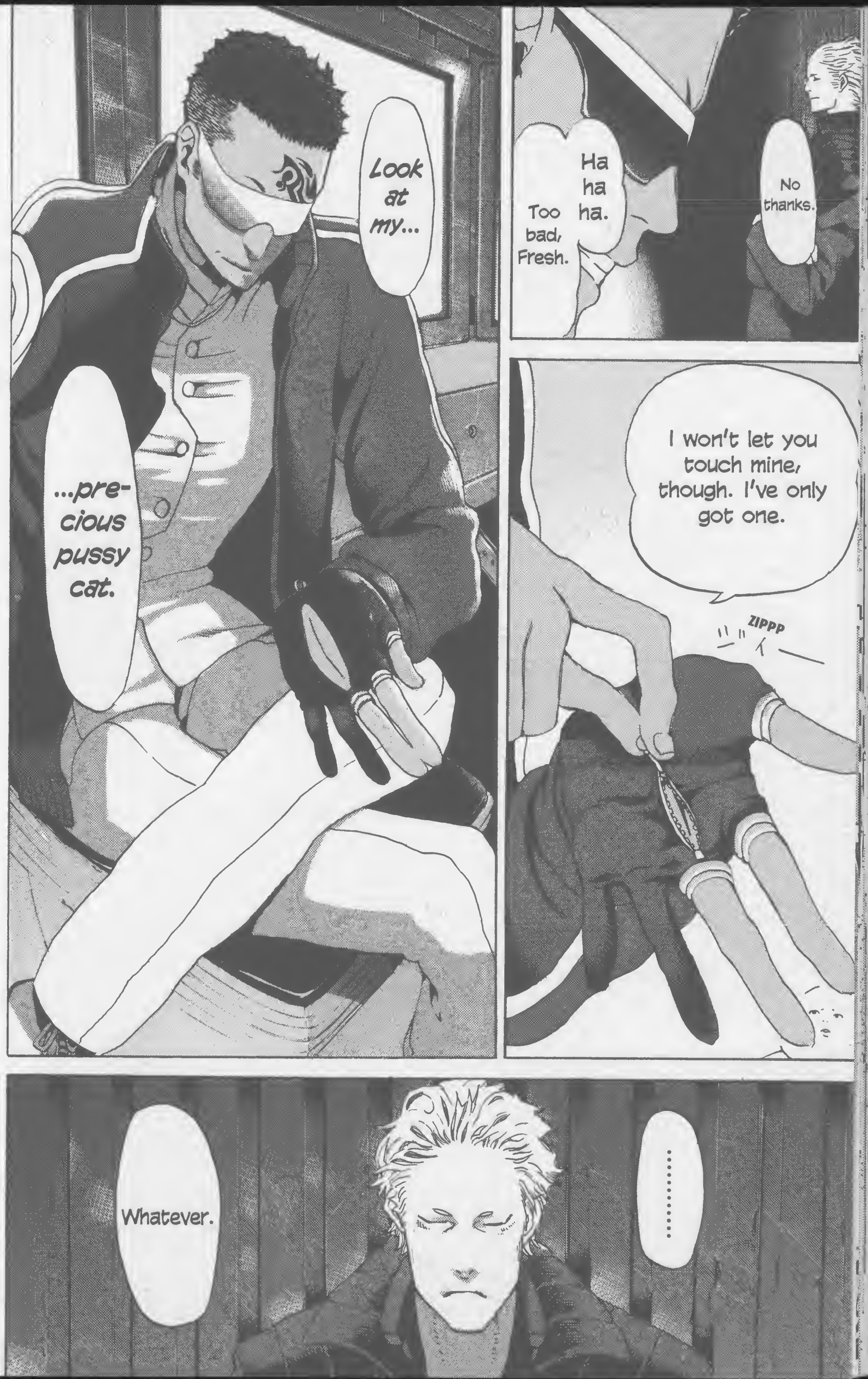

VRRR

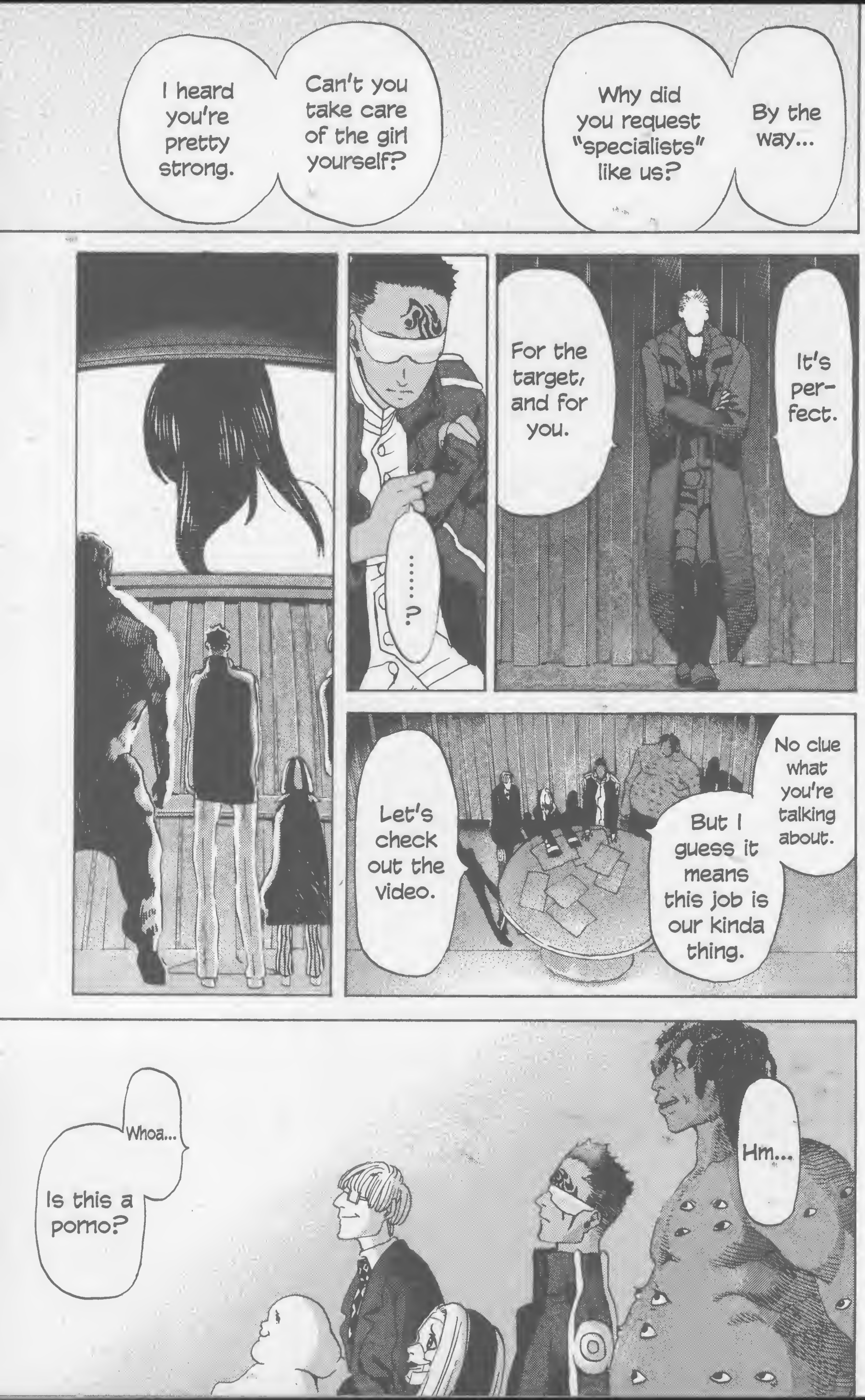

Here.
Tape of the target from six months ago and information regarding the hideout.
After we take care of the girl, can we do whatever we want?
Maybe a reward for the Bandersnatch Company?
LA LA LA
Yes.
You understand your objective.
After you kill her, you can do as you please.
Eat her, sell her, whatever.

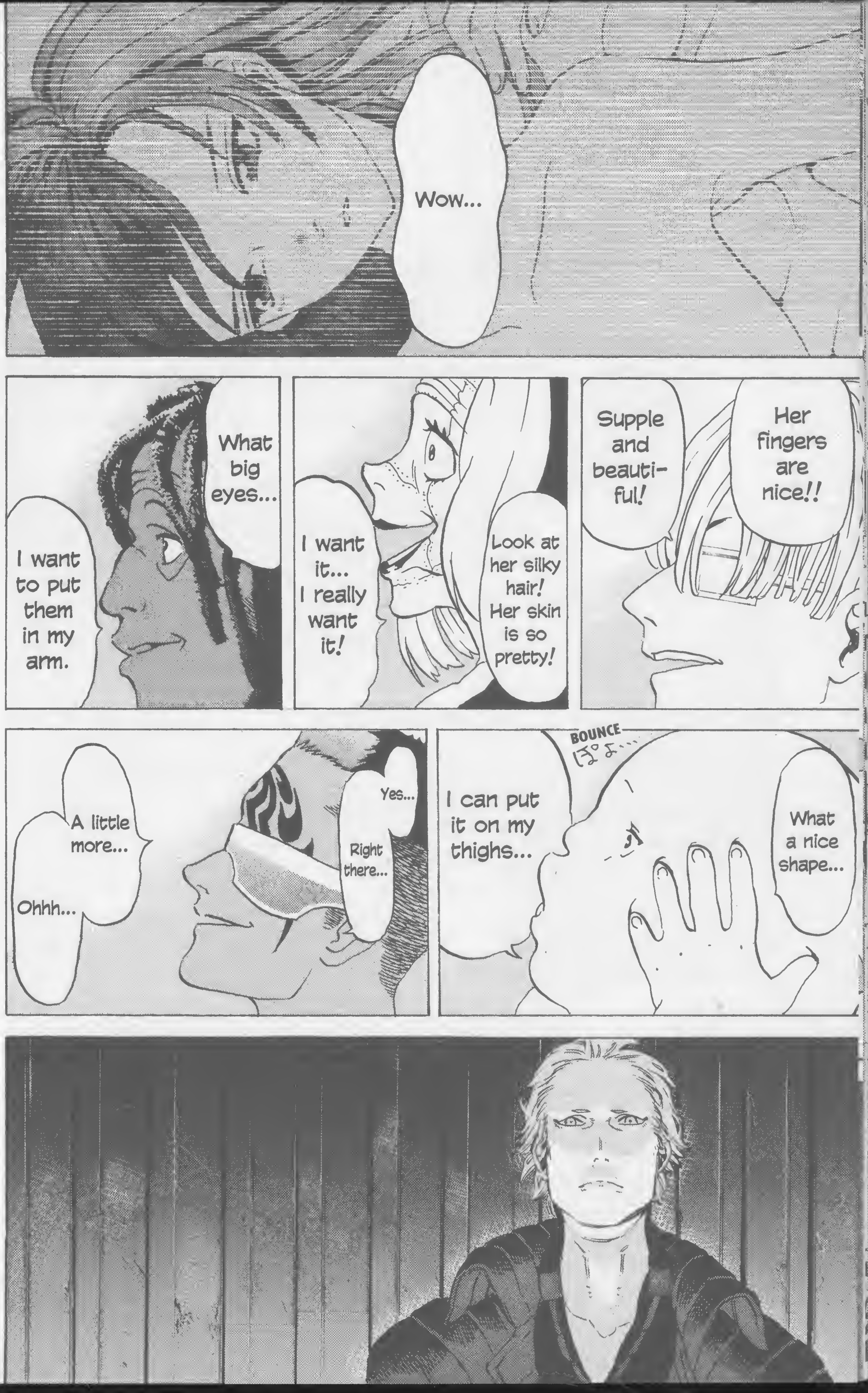

I can't wait.
We love collecting body parts.
I'll add some nice fingers...
...to my collection.
......
Yeah...
I don't know what kind of girl Rune Balot is...

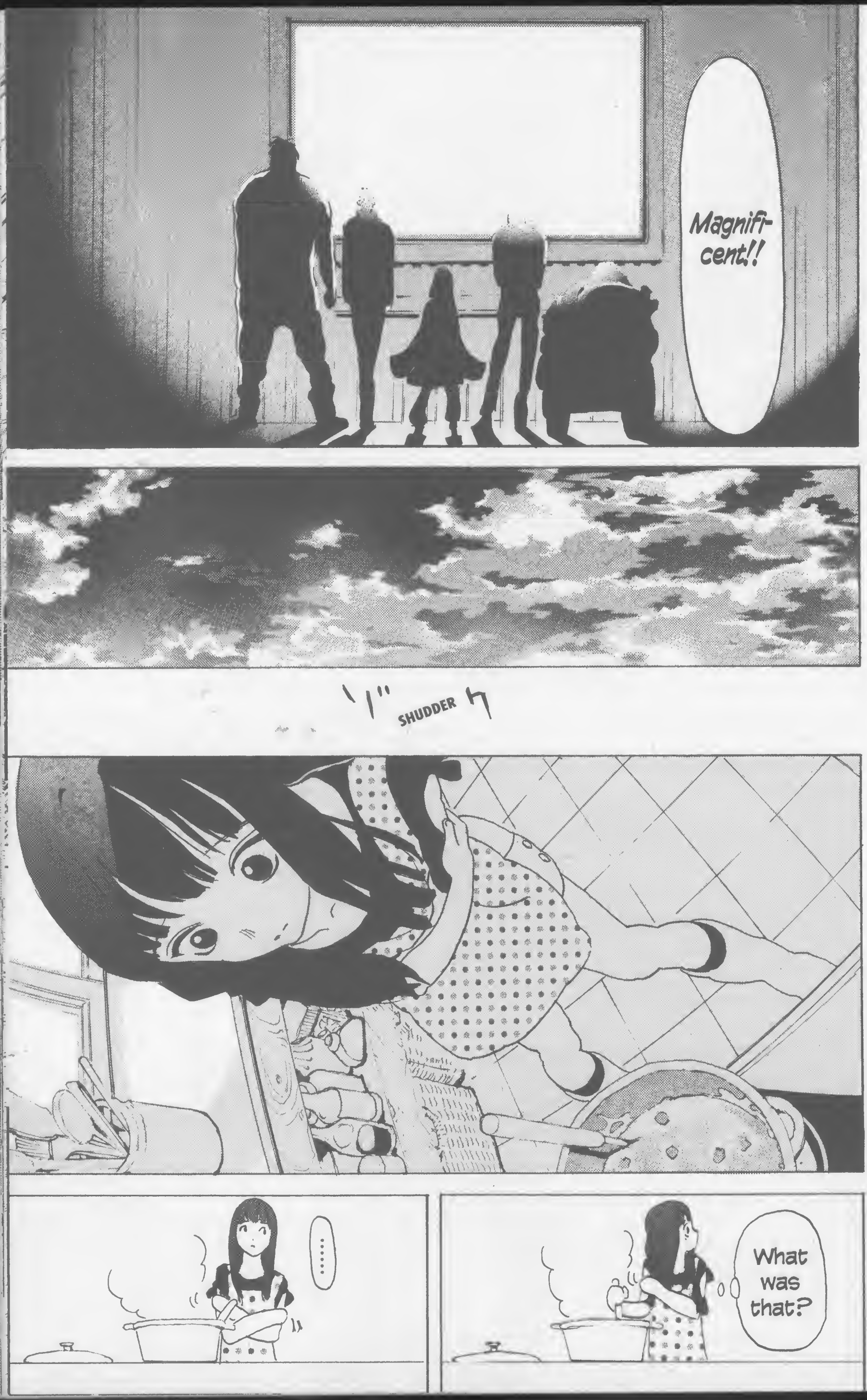

...but I hope she has nice skin and hair!
ギ
Yeah.
BLINK
I can't wait...
I'm so excited...
...I'm crying!!

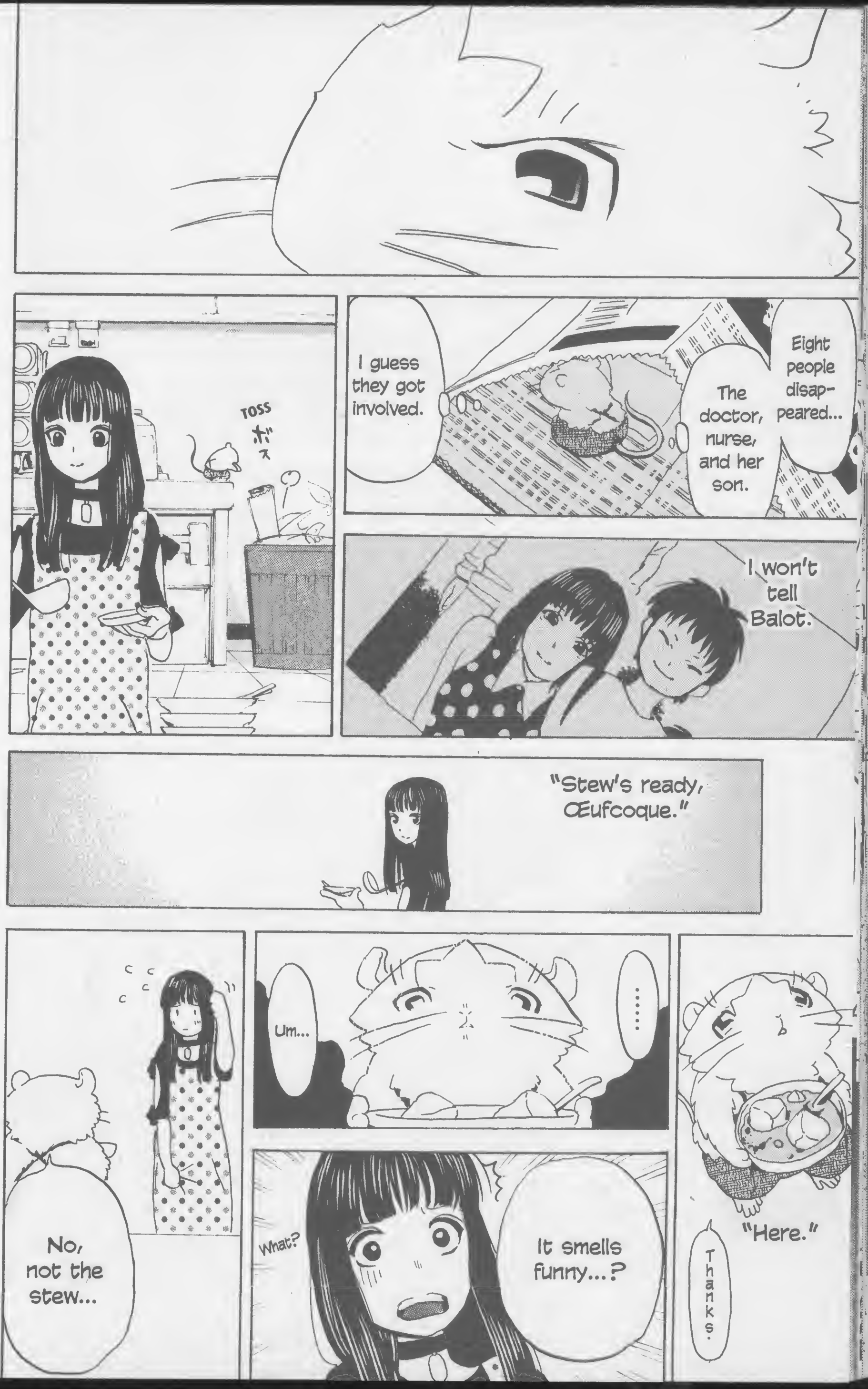

I'll show mine, too...
I'm a little shy, though...
BOUNCE
Cuz Boiled is so cool...
...I'll even let you touch it.
Well?
It's reeeaally soft.
....

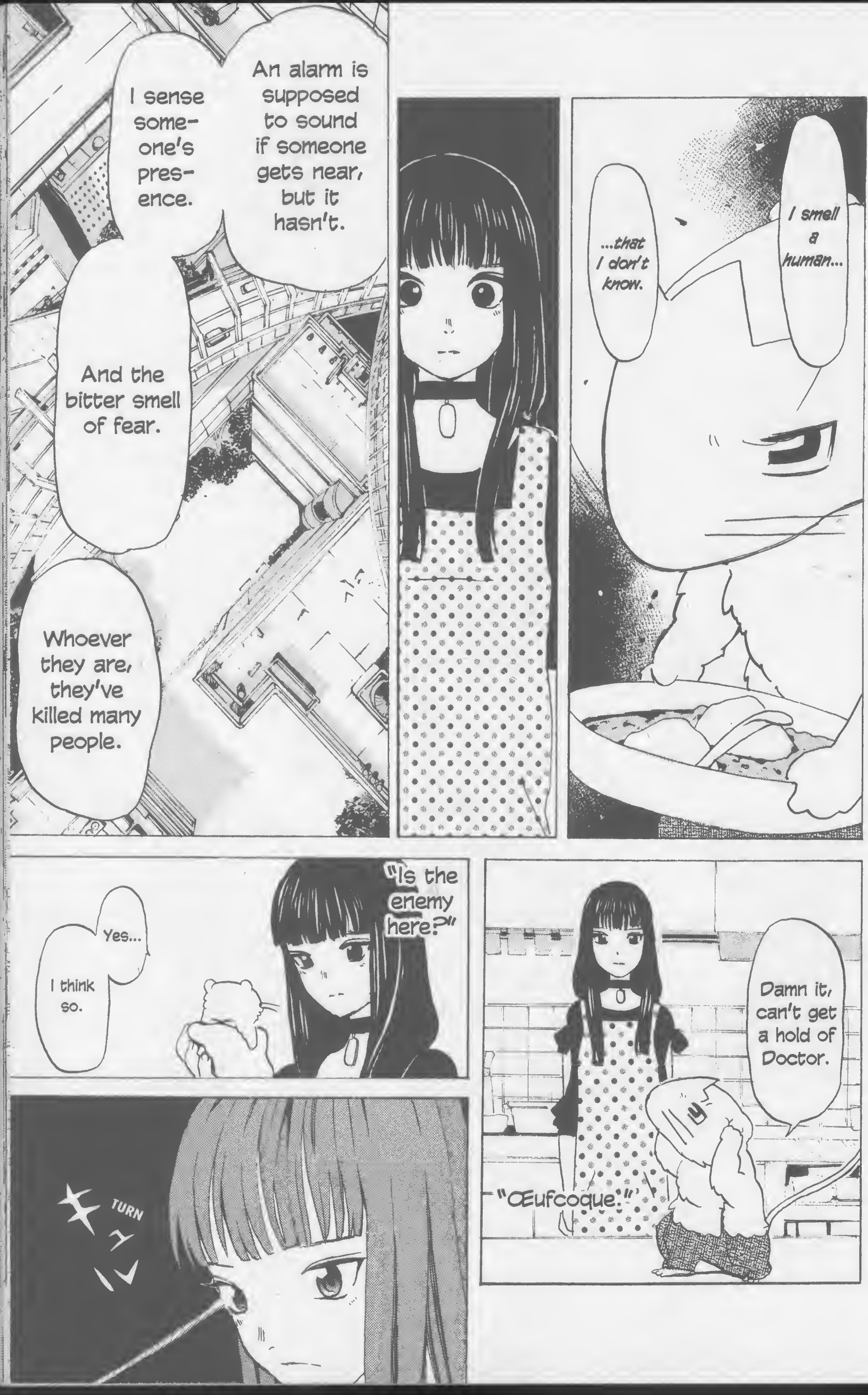

No thanks.
Ha ha ha.
Too bad, Fresh.
Look at my...
...precious pussy cat.
I won't let you touch mine, though. I've only got one.
ZIPPP
....
Whatever.

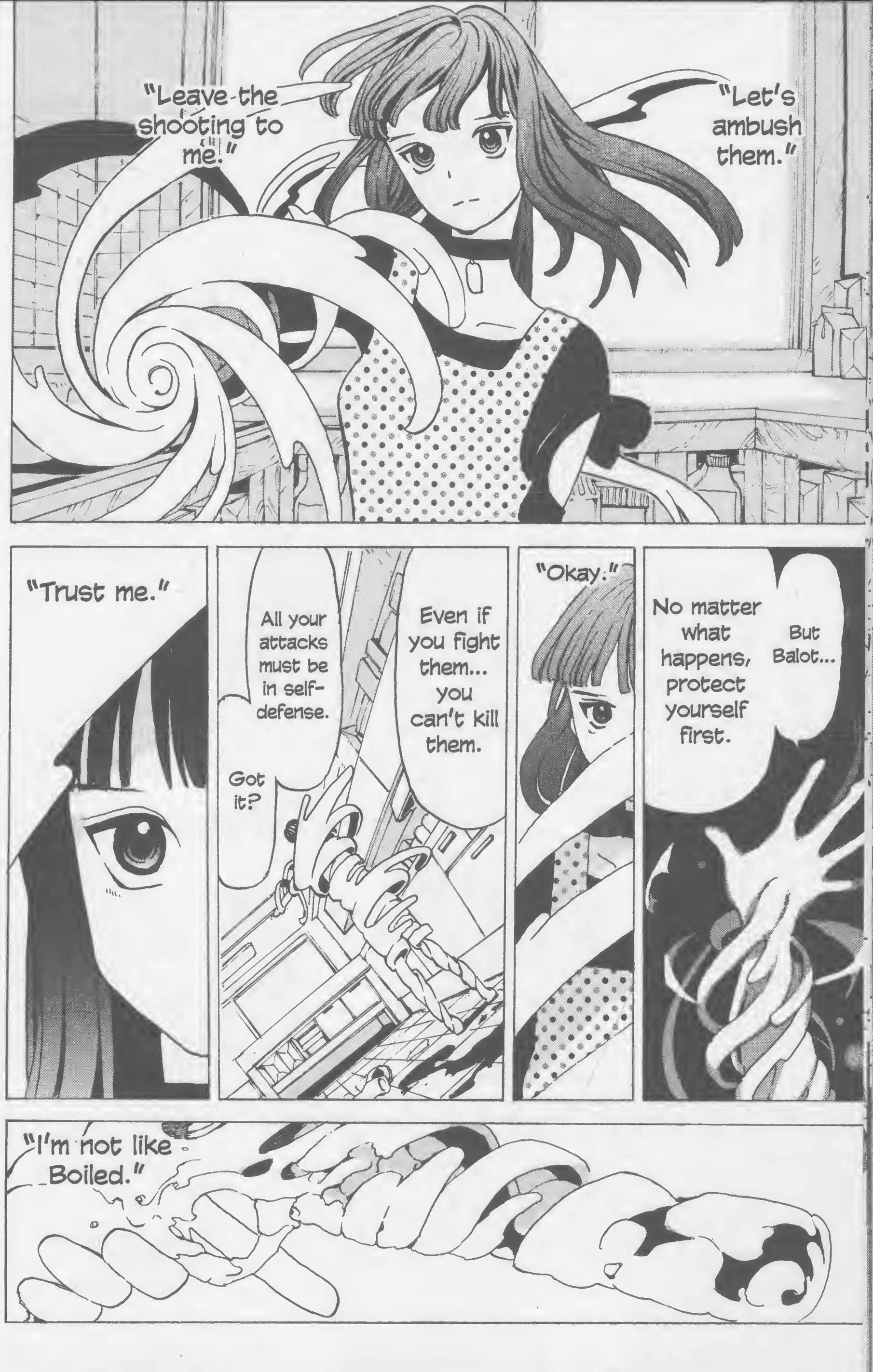

By the way...
Why did you request "specialists" like us?
Can't you take care of the girl yourself?
I heard you're pretty strong.
It's perfect.
For the target, and for you.
......?
No clue what you're talking about.
But I guess it means this job is our kinda thing.
Let's check out the video.
Hm...
Whoa...
Is this a porno?

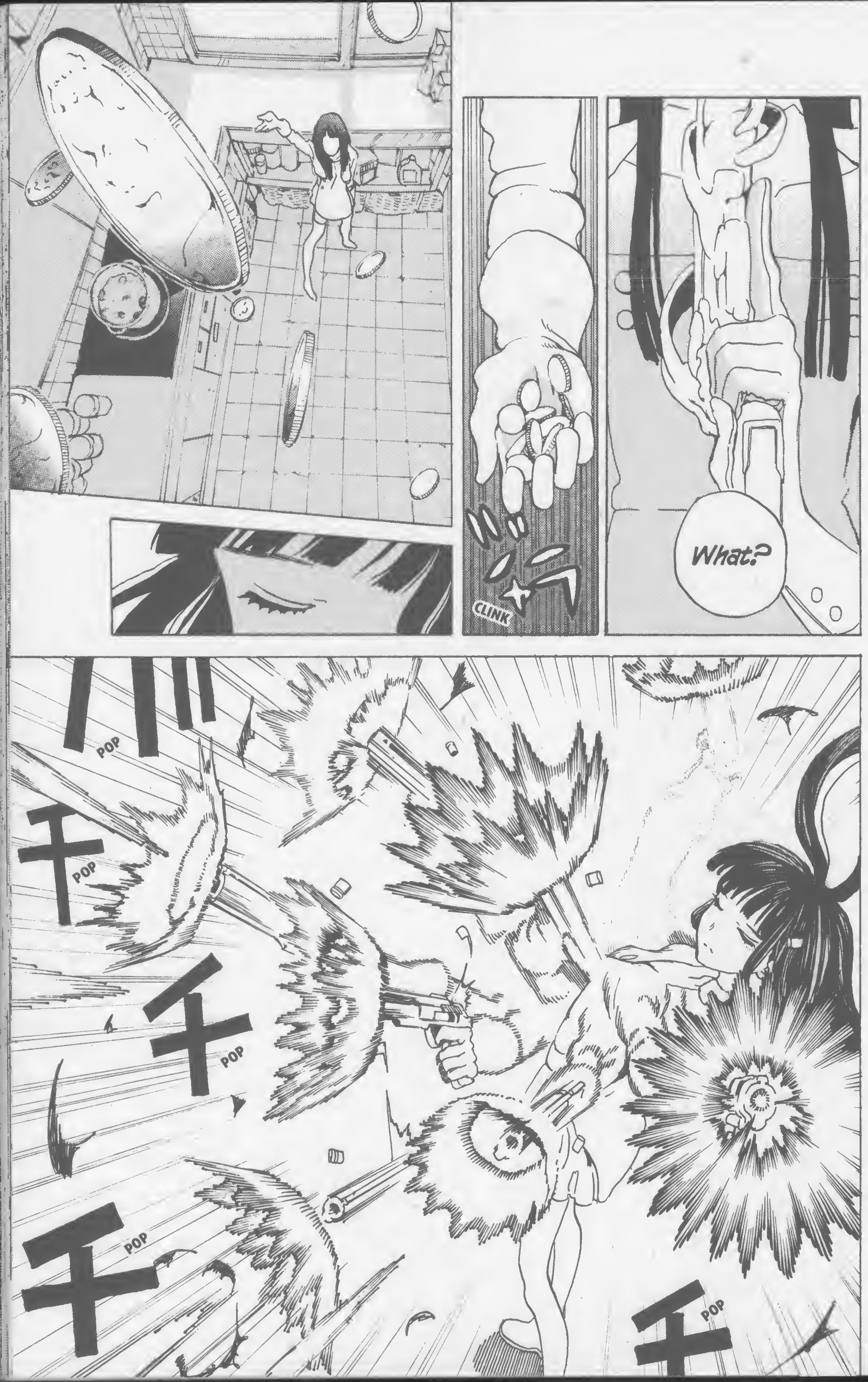

Wow...
Her fingers are nice!!
Supple and beautiful!
Look at her silky hair! Her skin is so pretty!
I want it... I really want it!
What big eyes...
I want to put them in my arm.
BOUNCE ぷよ…
What a nice shape...
I can put it on my thighs...
Yes...
Right there...
A little more...
Ohhh...

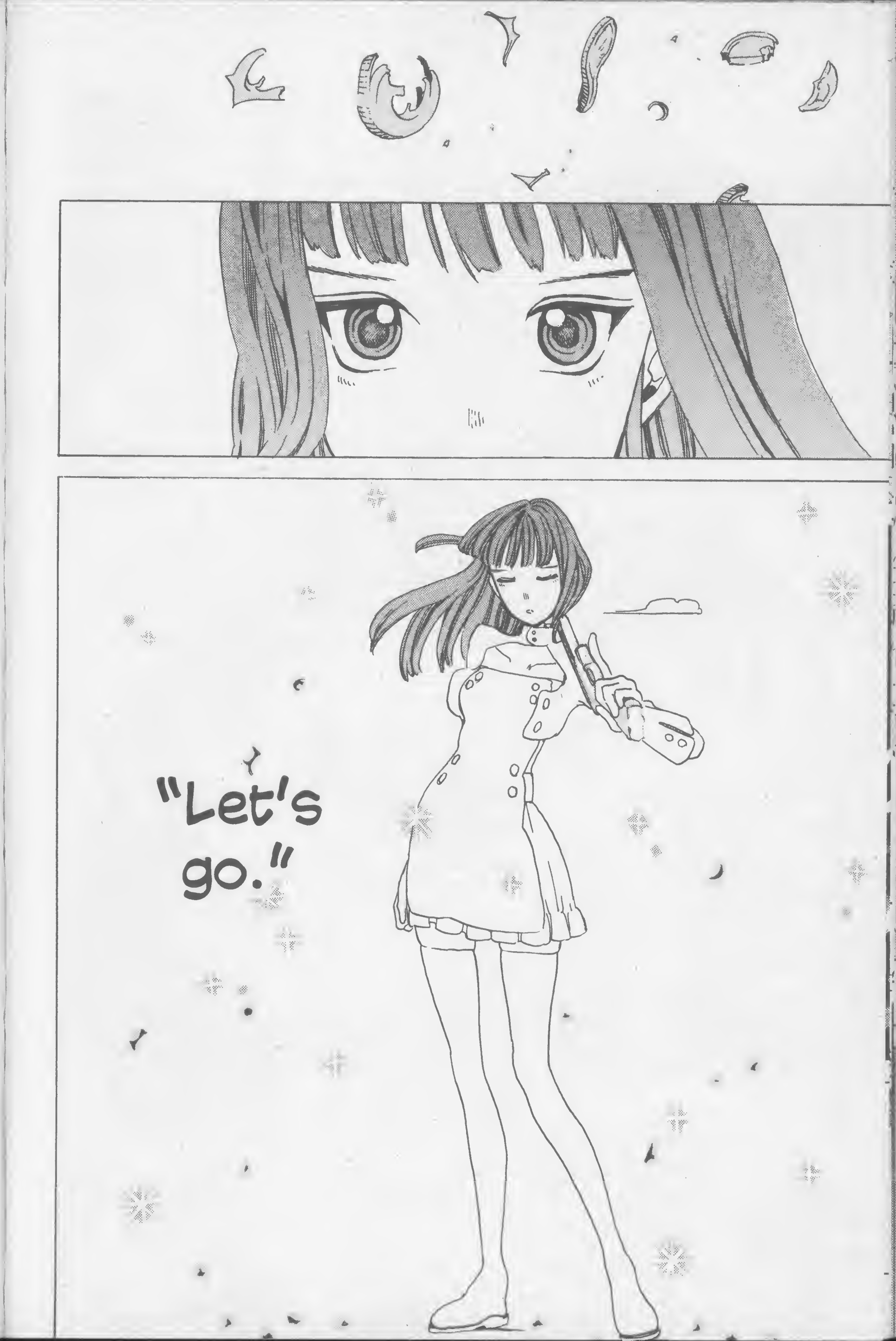

Magnificent!!
SHUDDER
What was that?
......

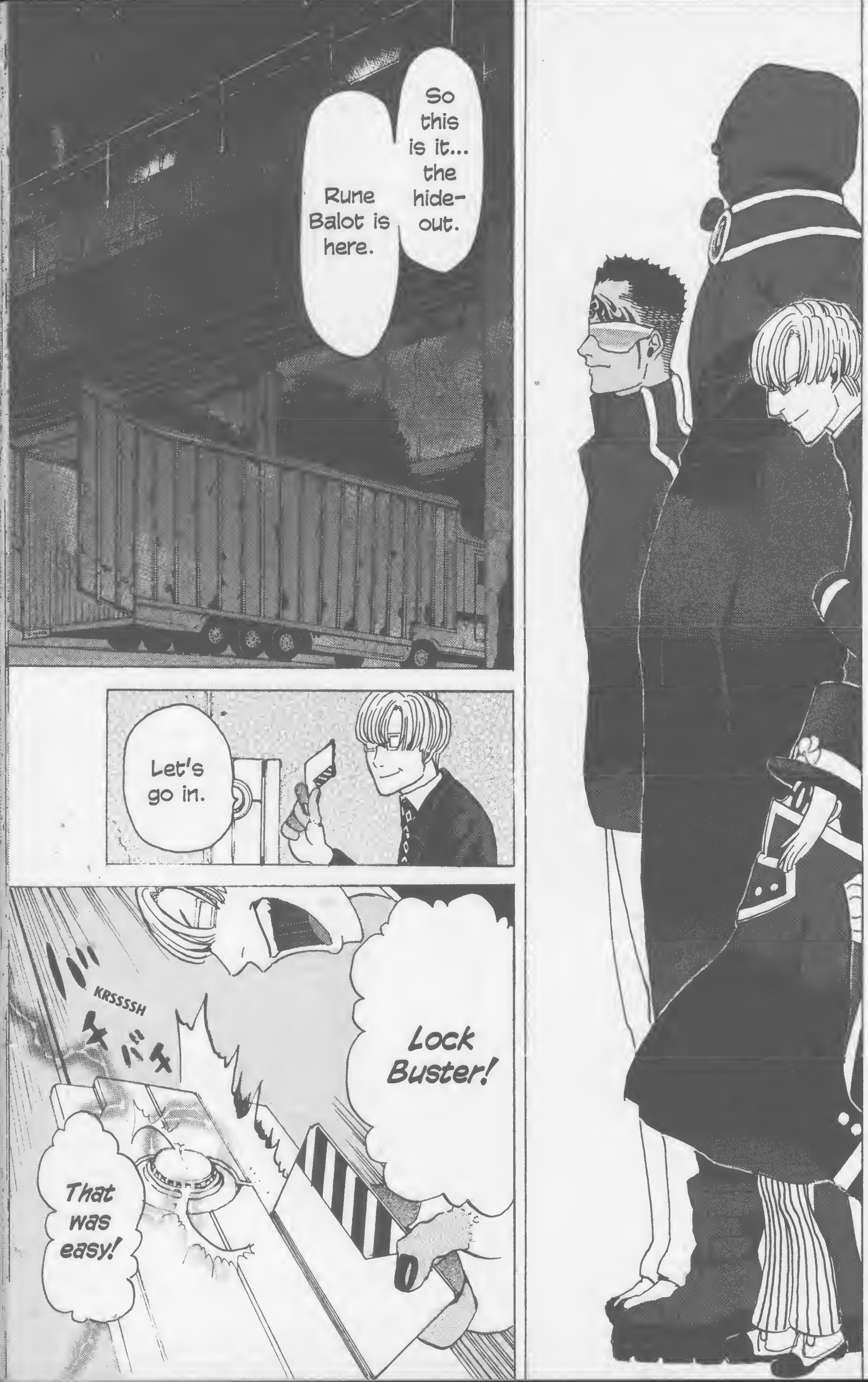

Eight people disap-peared...
The doctor, nurse, and her son.
I guess they got involved.
TOSS
ボス
I won't tell Balot.
"Stew's ready, Œufcoque."
"Here."
Thanks.
......
Um...
It smells funny...?
What?
No, not the stew...

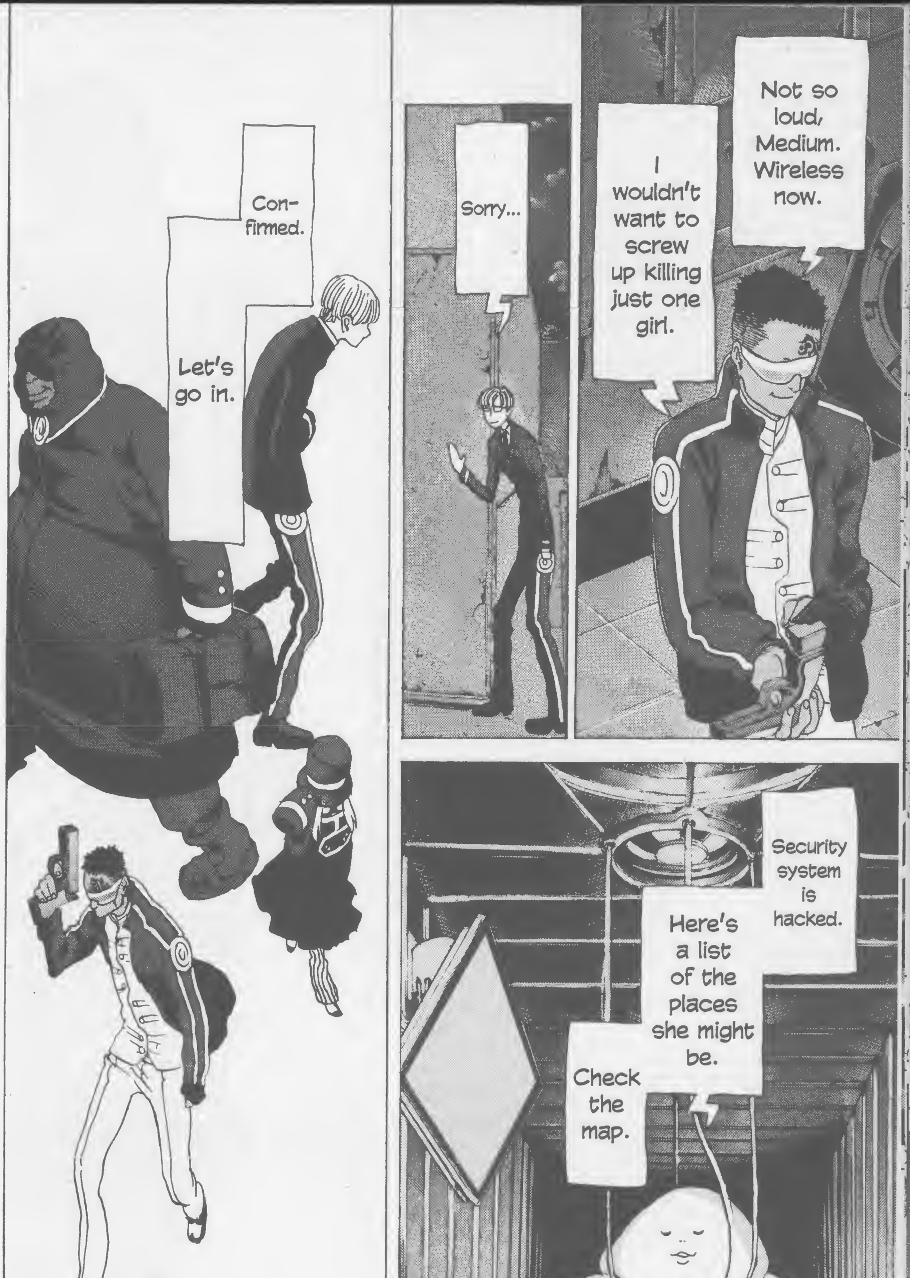

I smell a human...
...that I don't know.
An alarm is supposed to sound if someone gets near, but it hasn't.
I sense someone's presence.
And the bitter smell of fear.
Whoever they are, they've killed many people.
Damn it, can't get a hold of Doctor.
"Œufcoque."
"Is the enemy here?"
Yes...
I think so.
TURN

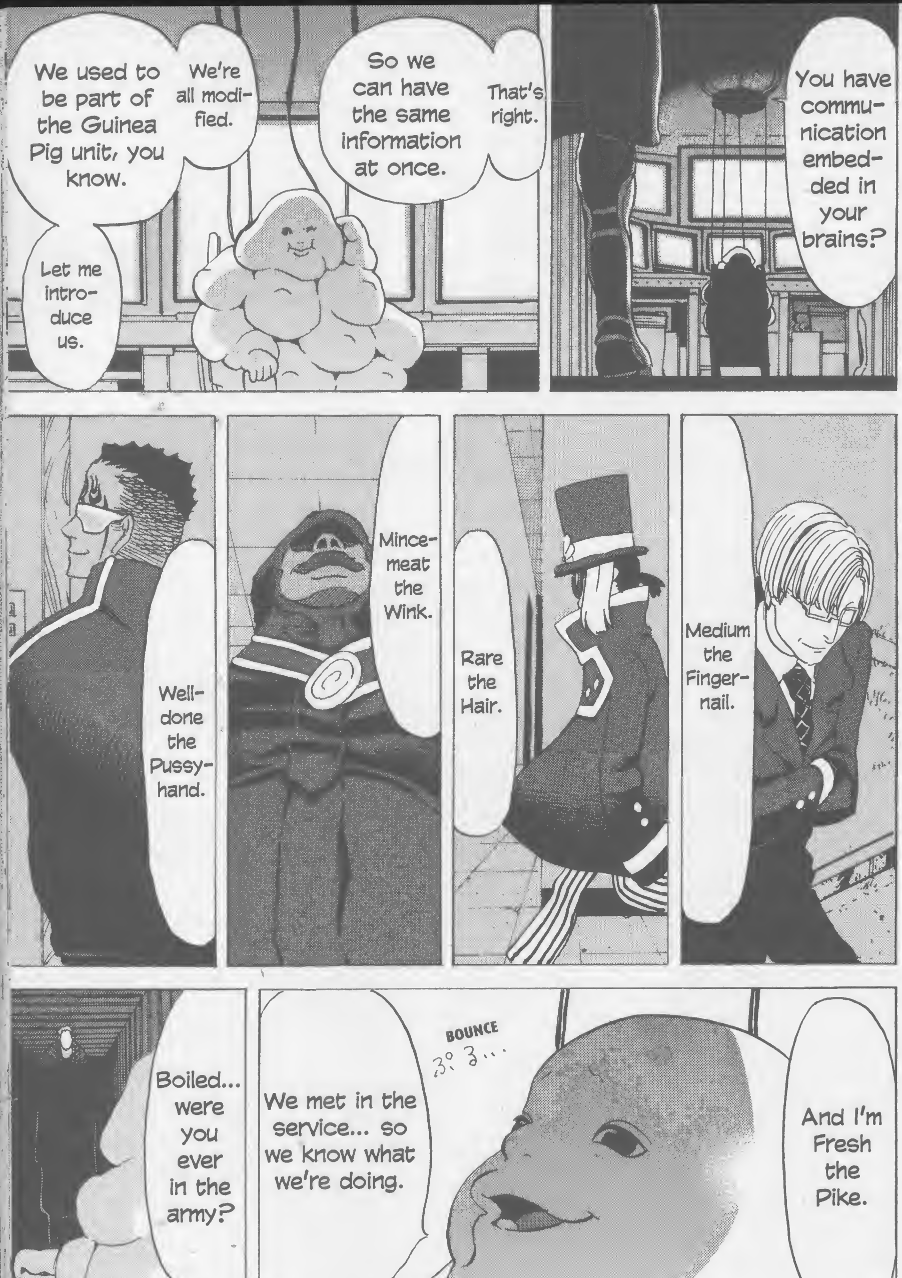

"Let's ambush them."
"Leave the shooting to me."
But Balot...
No matter what happens, protect yourself first.
"Okay."
Even if you fight them... you can't kill them.
All your attacks must be in self-defense.
Got it?
"Trust me."
"I'm not like Boiled."

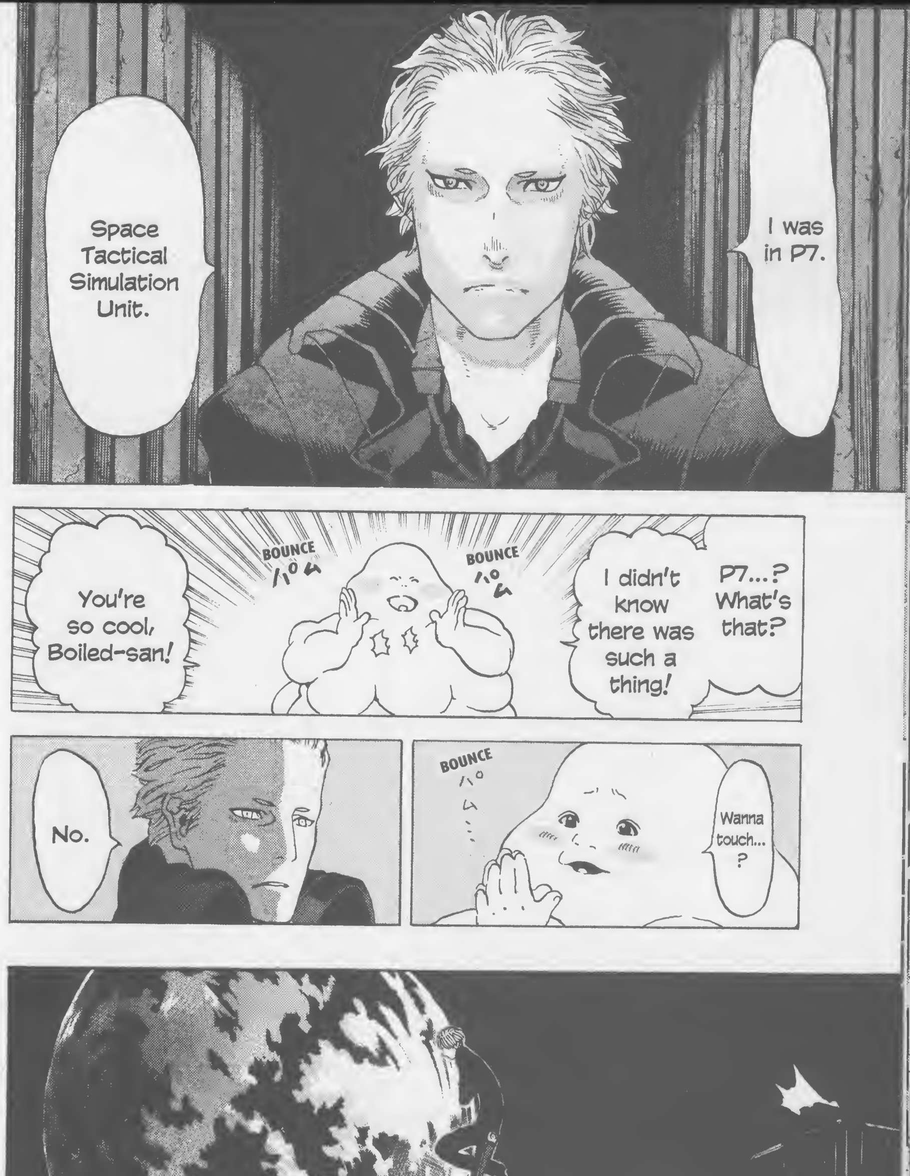

What?
CLINK
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP

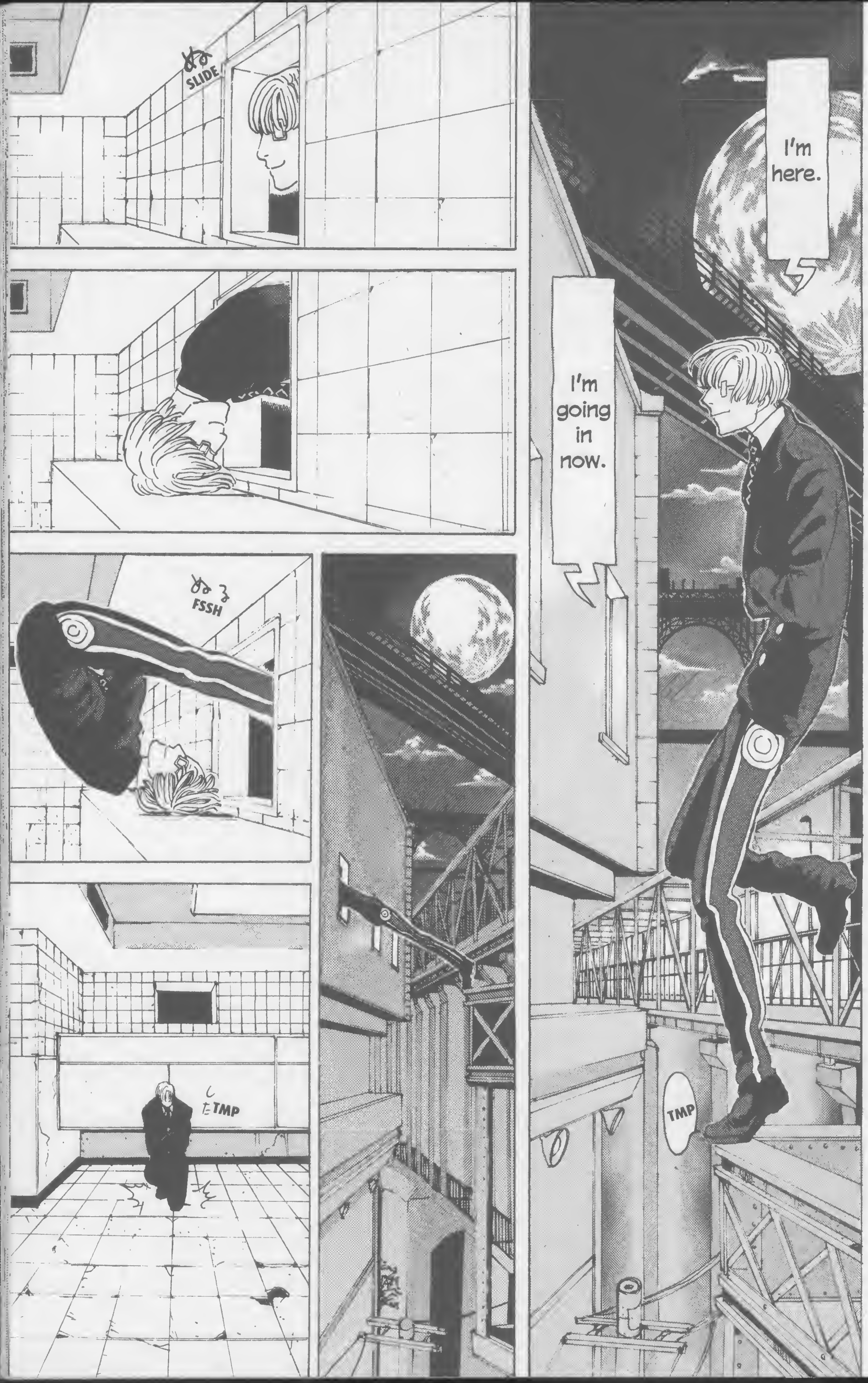

"Let's go."

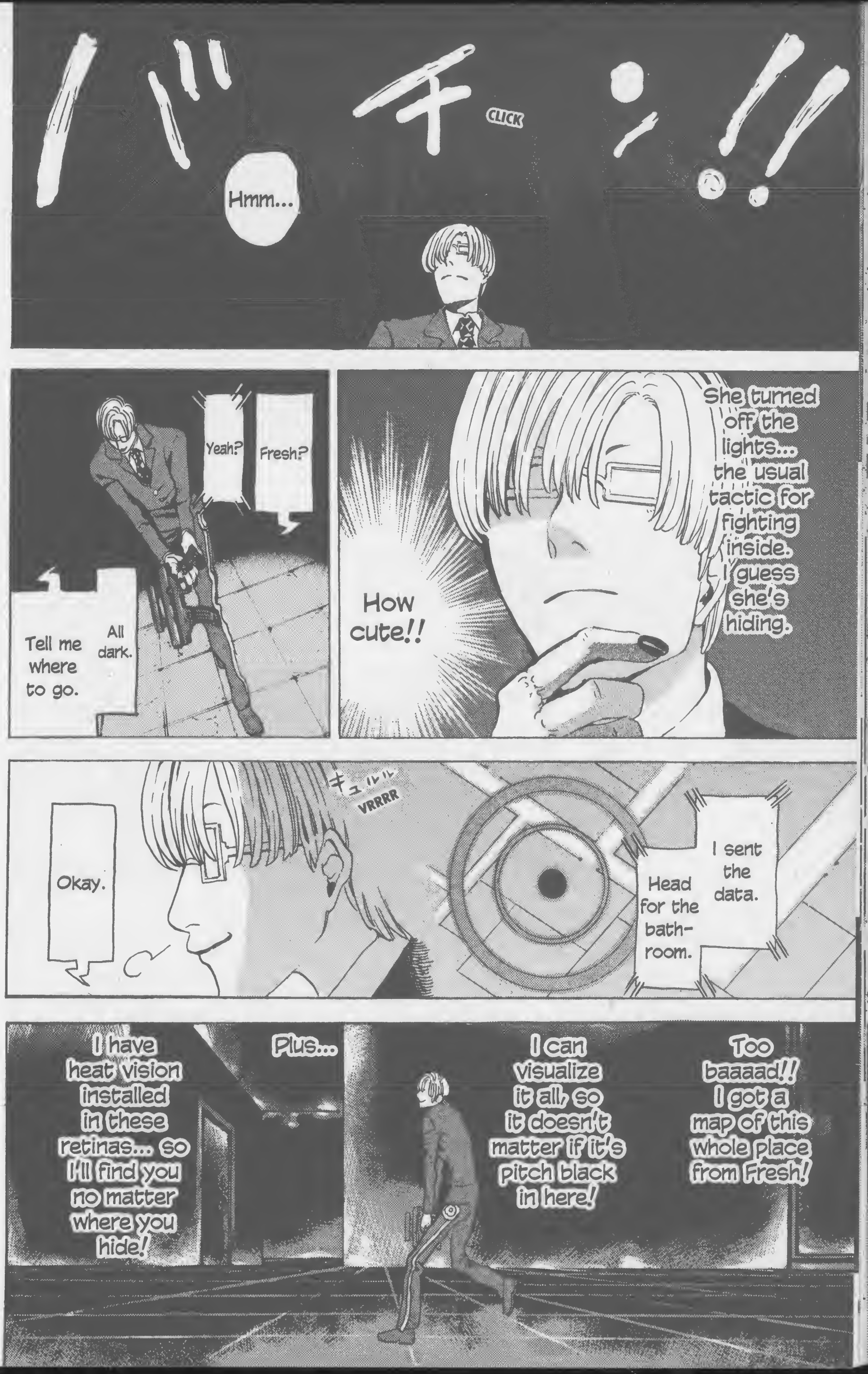

So this is it... the hide-out.
Rune Balot is here.
Let's go in.
Lock Buster!
KRSSSSH
バチバチ
That was easy!

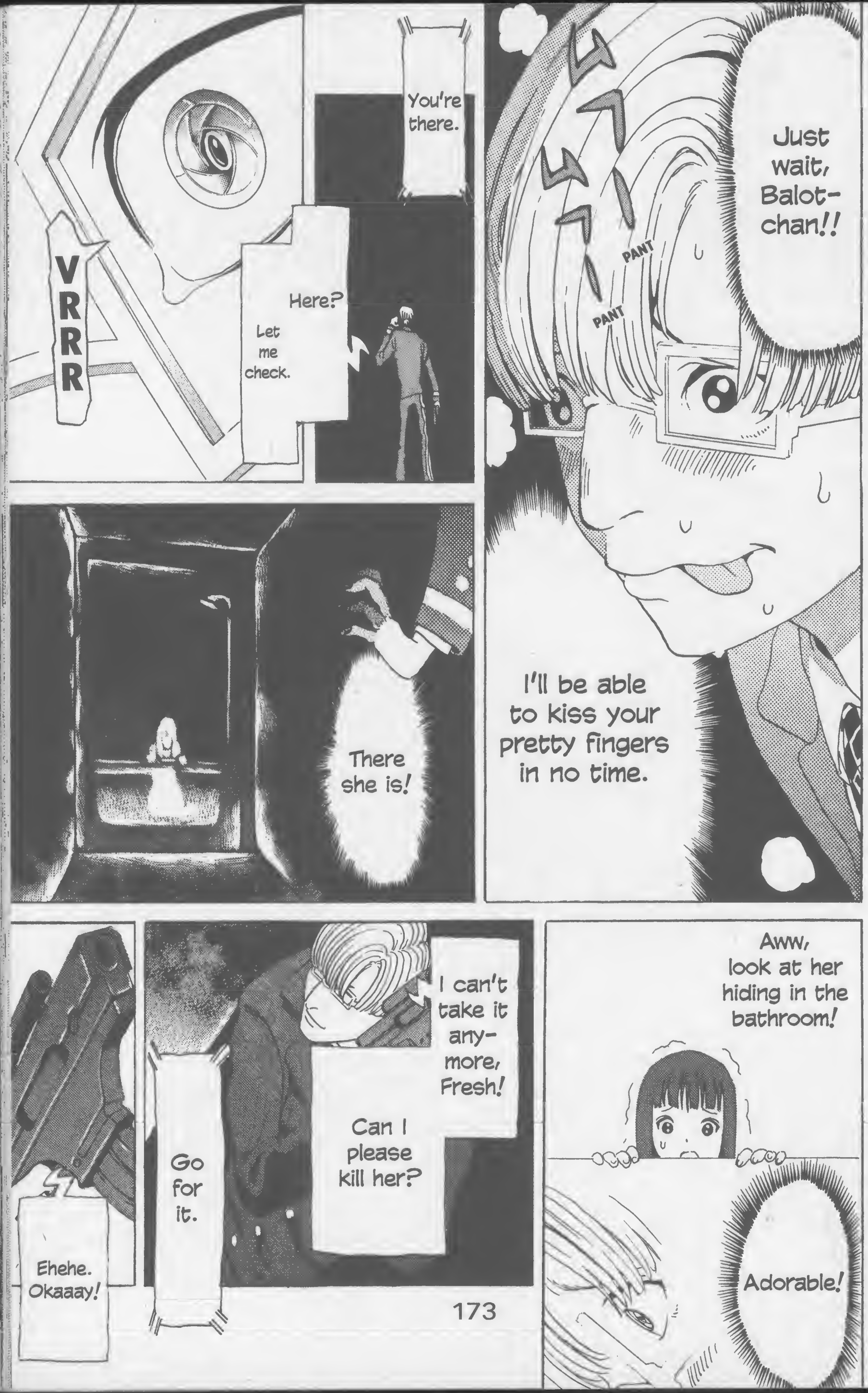

Not so loud, Medium. Wireless now.
I wouldn't want to screw up killing just one girl.
Sorry...
Security system is hacked.
Here's a list of the places she might be.
Check the map.
Confirmed.
Let's go in.

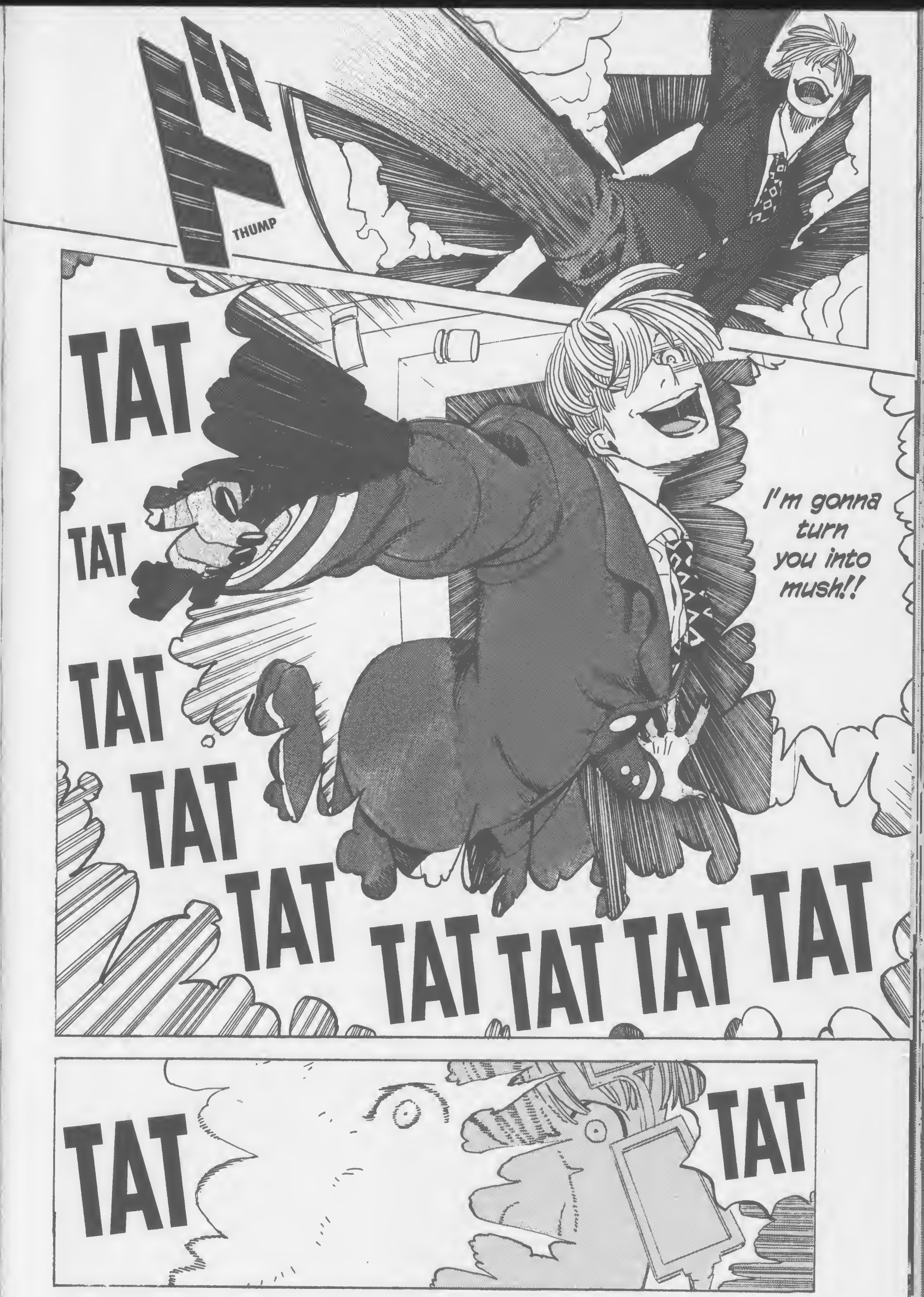

You have communication embedded in your brains?
That's right.
So we can have the same information at once.
We're all modified.
We used to be part of the Guinea Pig unit, you know.
Let me introduce us.
Medium the Fingernail.
Rare the Hair.
Mincemeat the Wink.
Well-done the Pussyhand.
And I'm Fresh the Pike.
BOUNCE
ぶるる…
We met in the service... so we know what we're doing.
Boiled... were you ever in the army?

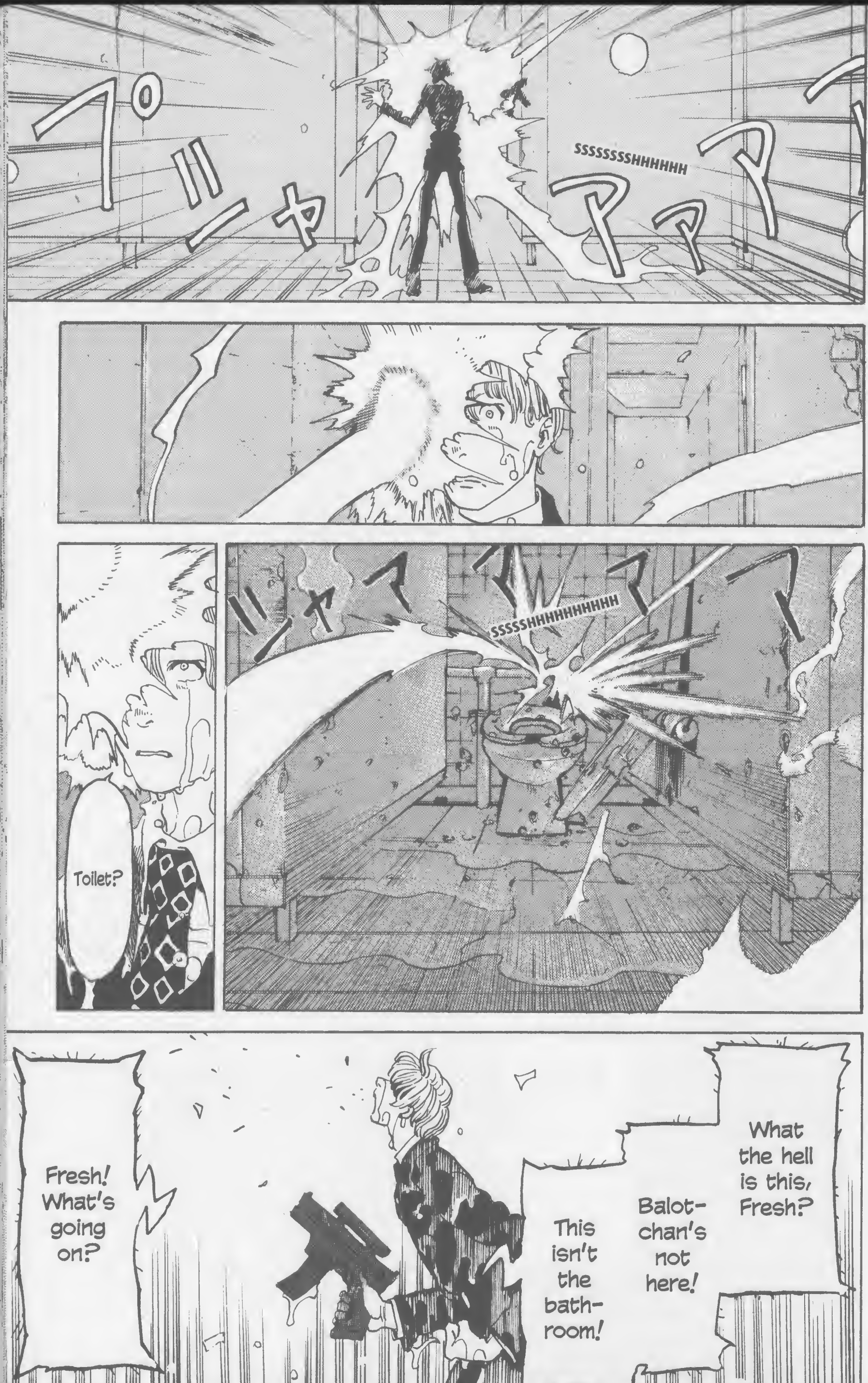

I was in P7.
Space Tactical Simulation Unit.
P7...? What's that?
I didn't know there was such a thing!
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
You're so cool, Boiled-san!
BOUNCE
Wanna touch...?
No.

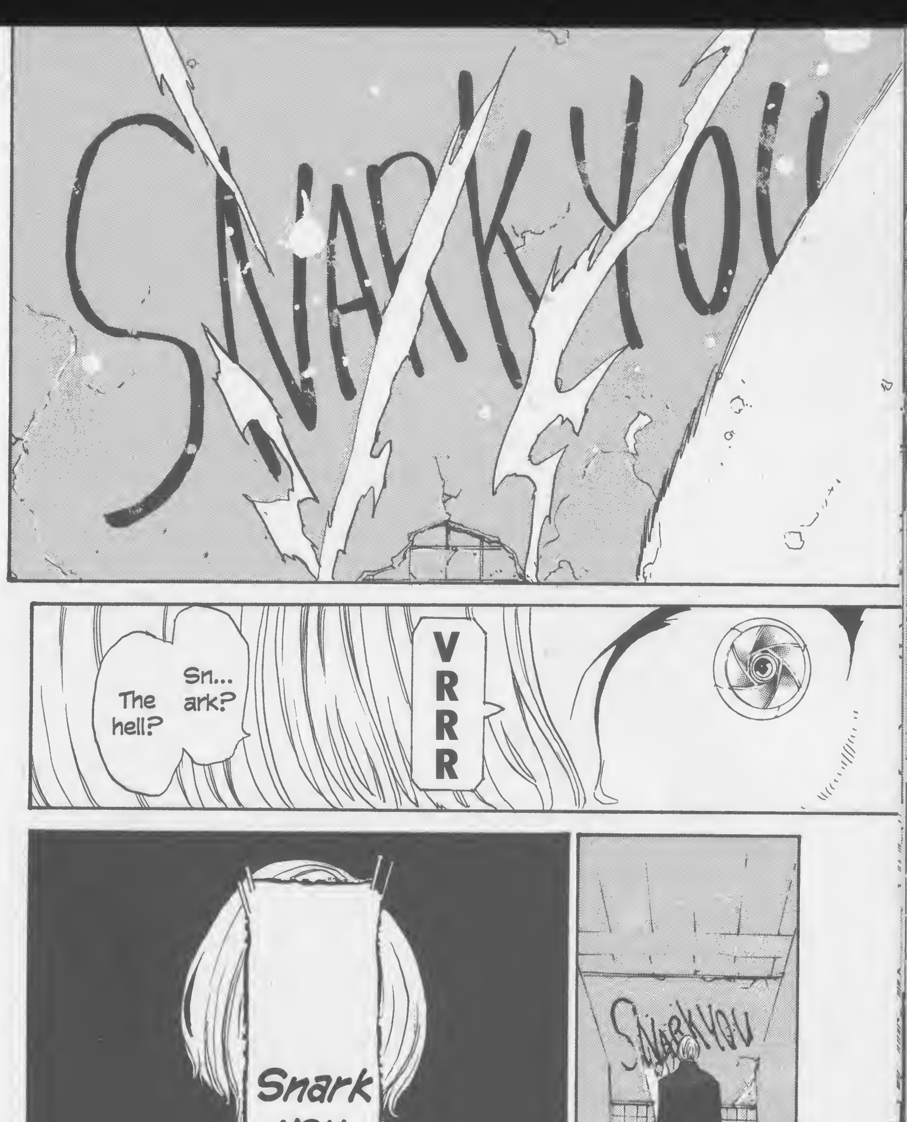

I'm here.
I'm going in now.
TMP
SLIDE
FSSH
TMP

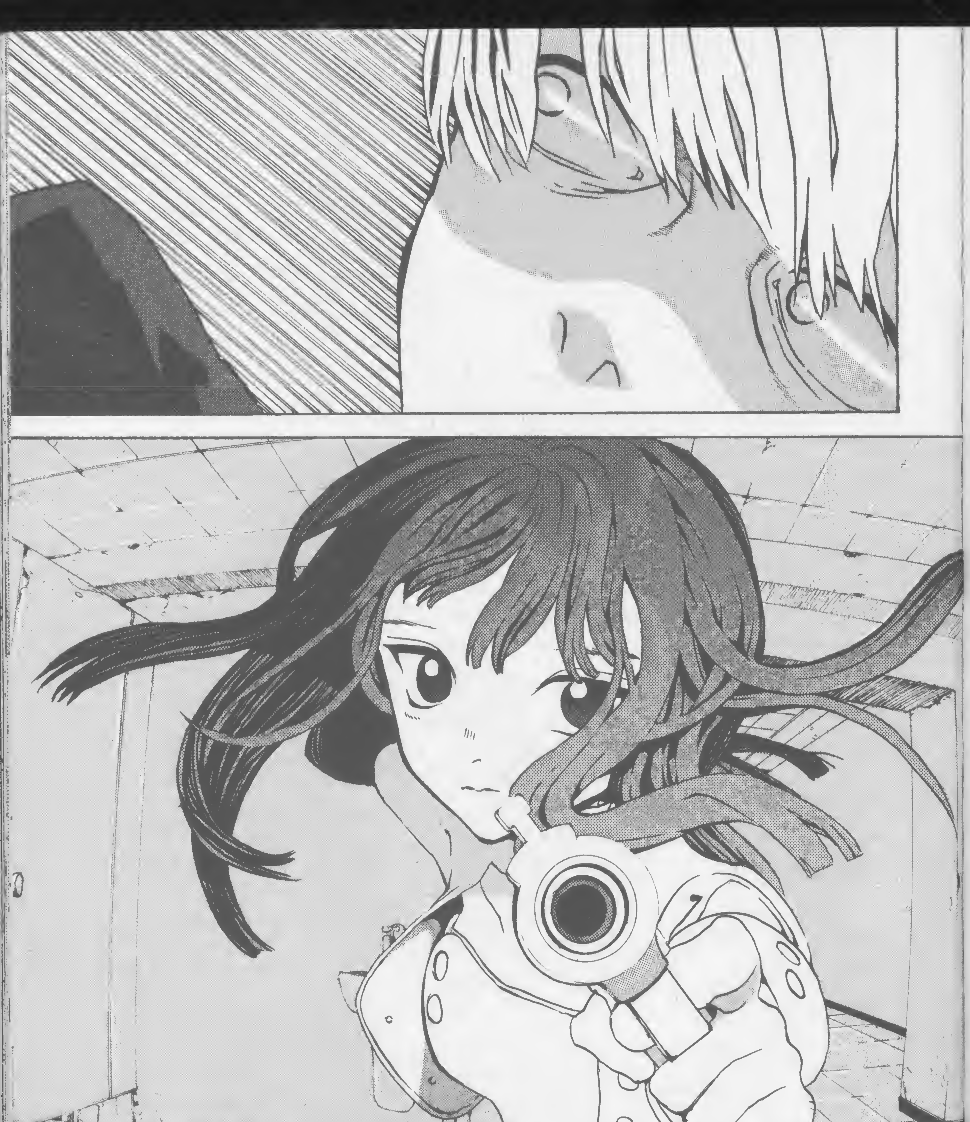

バチン!!
CLICK
Hmm...
She turned off the lights... the usual tactic for fighting inside. I guess she's hiding.
How cute!!
Fresh?
Yeah?
All dark.
Tell me where to go.
I sent the data.
Head for the bathroom.
キュルル
VRRRR
Okay.
Too baaaad!! I got a map of this whole place from Fresh!
I can visualize it all, so it doesn't matter if it's pitch black in here!
Plus...
I have heat vision installed in these retinas... so I'll find you no matter where you hide!

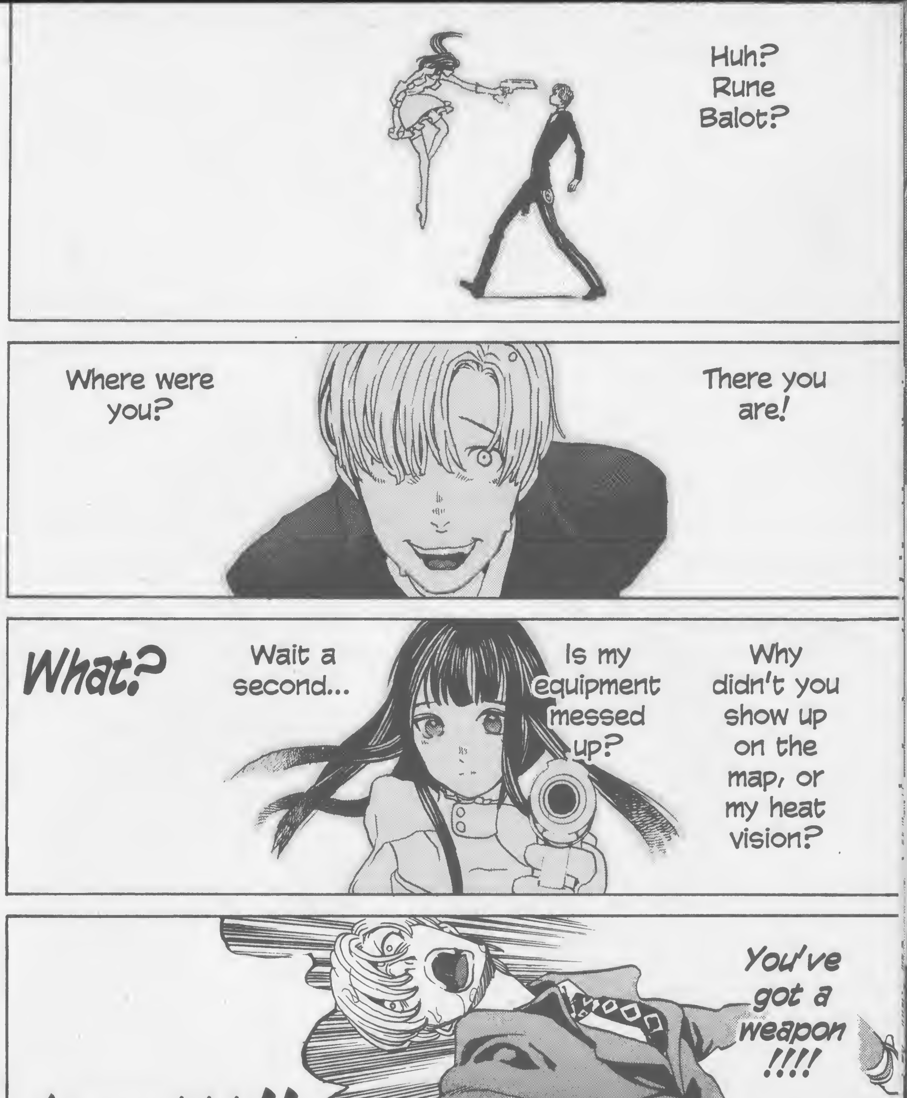

Just wait, Balot-chan!!
PANT
PANT
I'll be able to kiss your pretty fingers in no time.
You're there.
Here?
Let me check.
VRRR
There she is!
Aww, look at her hiding in the bathroom!
Adorable!
I can't take it anymore, Fresh!
Can I please kill her?
Go for it.
Ehehe. Okaaay!

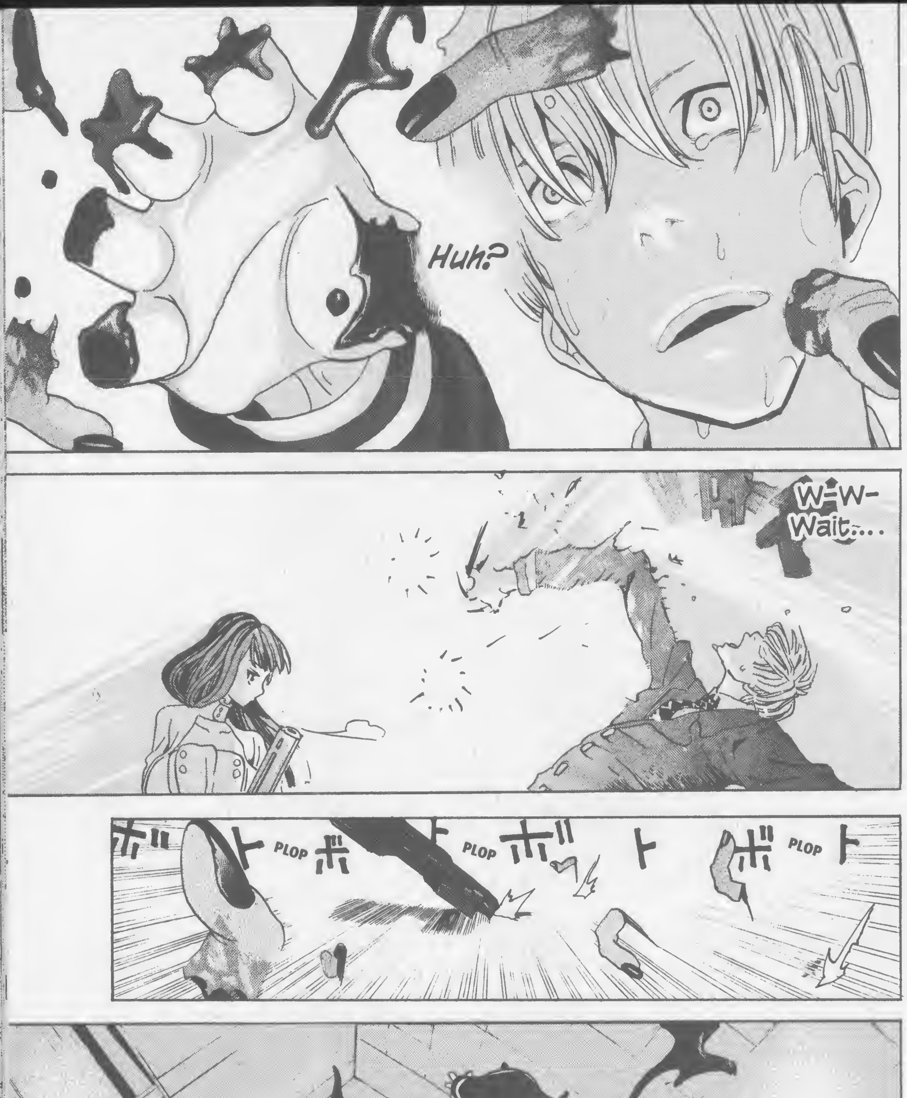

ド
THUMP
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT TAT TAT TAT
I'm gonna turn you into mush!!
TAT
TAT

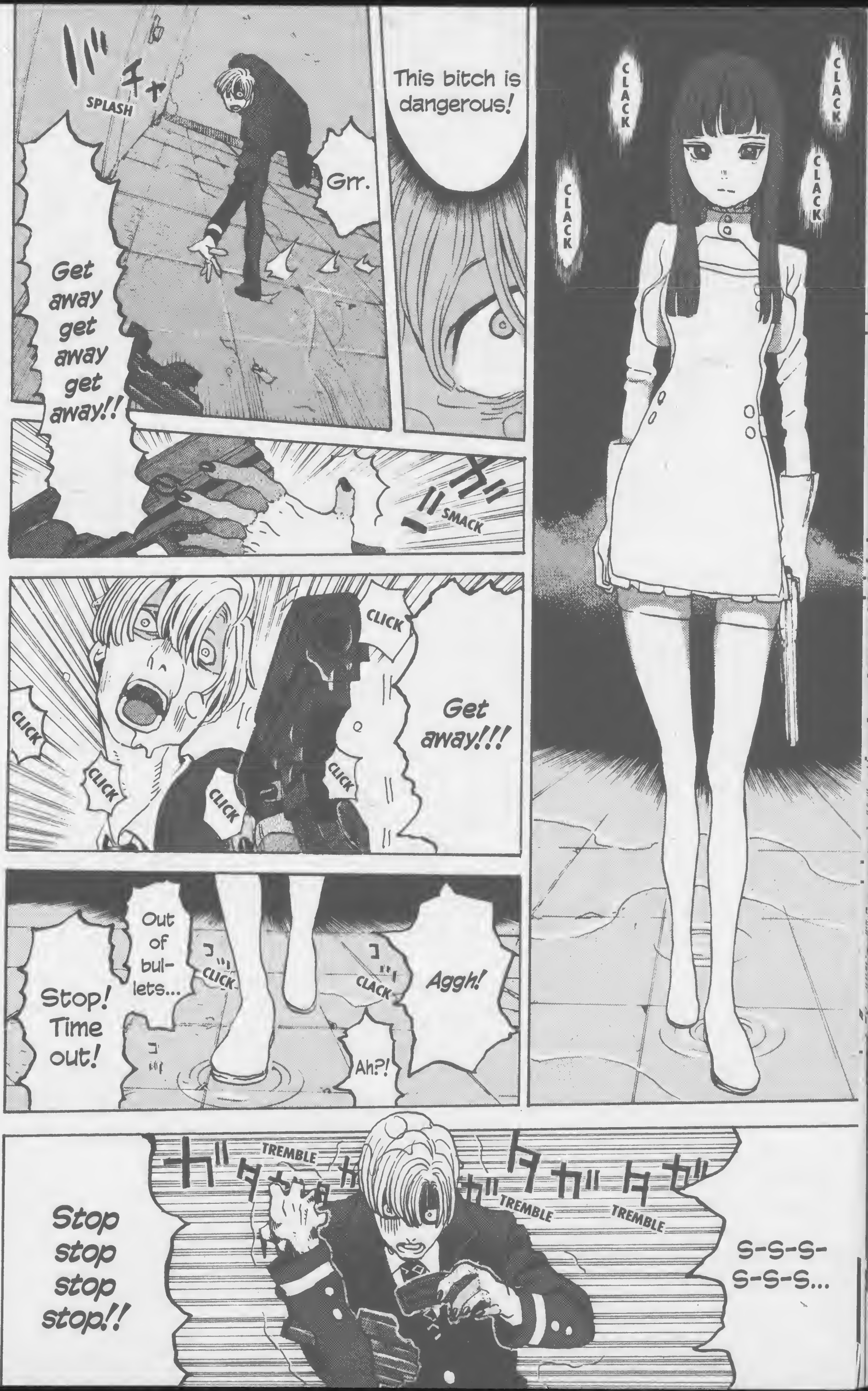

SSSSSSSSHHHHHH
SSSSSHHHHHHHHHH
Toilet?
What the hell is this, Fresh?
Balot-chan's not here!
This isn't the bathroom!
Fresh! What's going on?

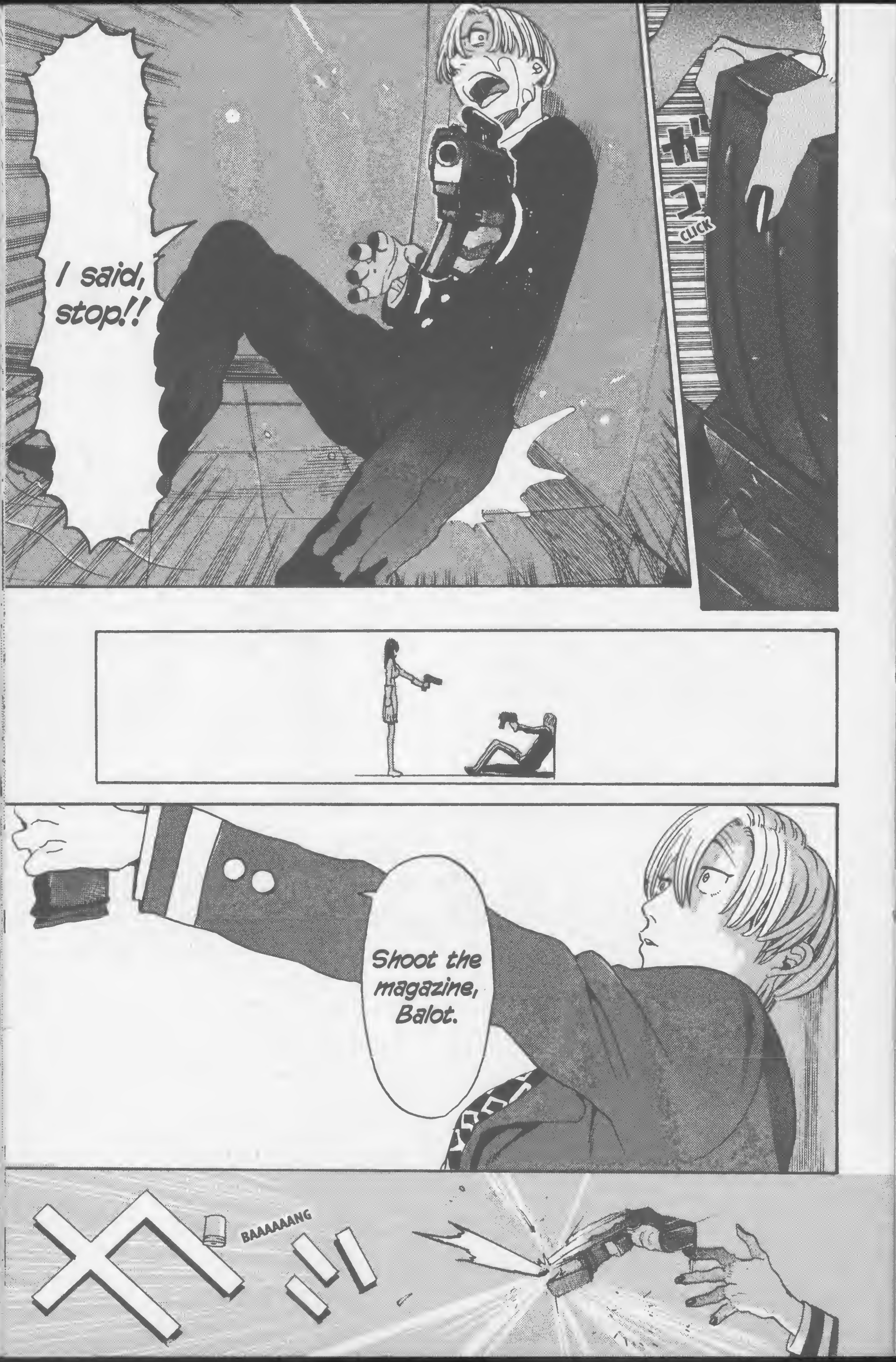

SNARK YOU
VRRR
Sn... ark?
The hell?
SNARK YOU
Snark you.

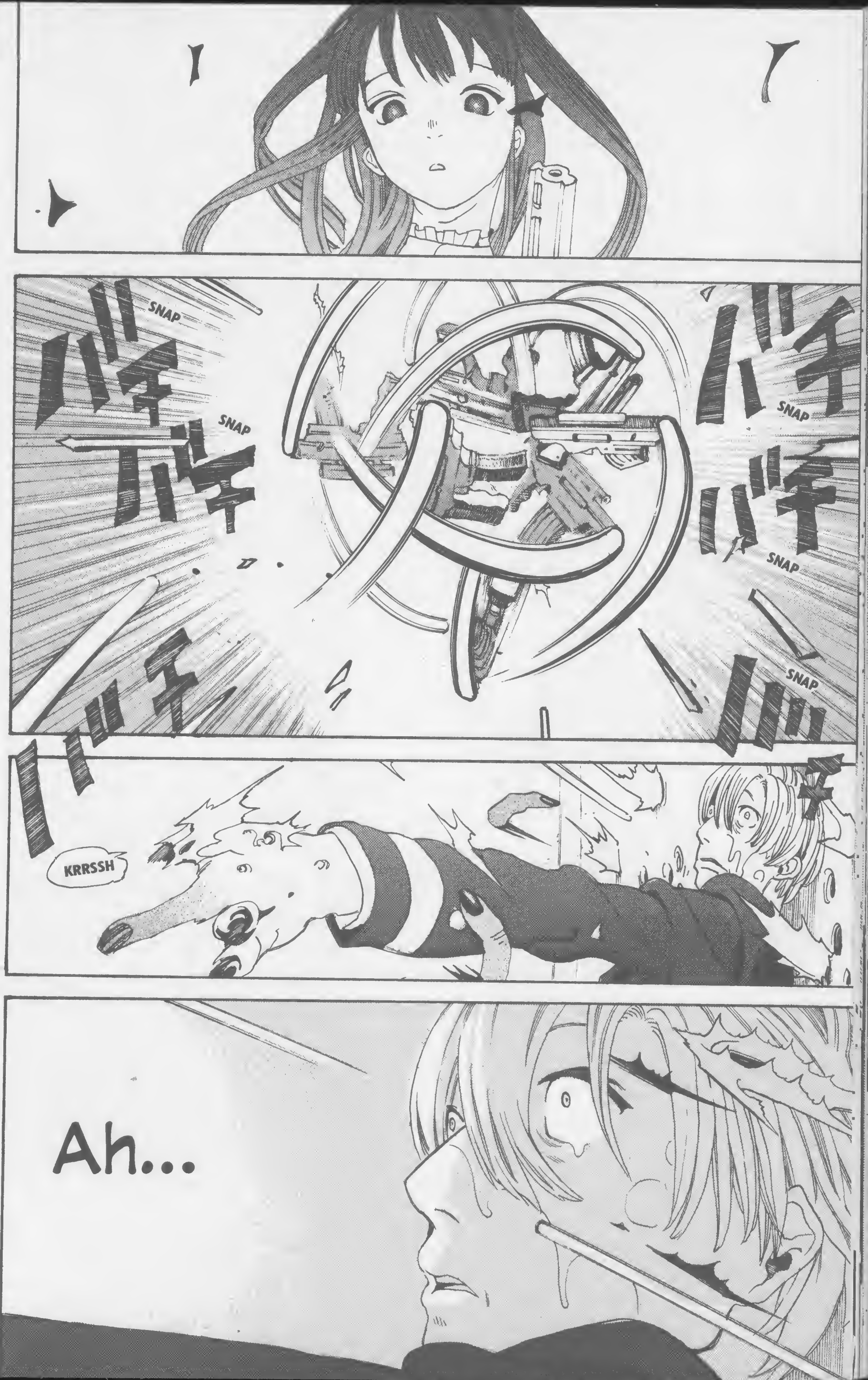


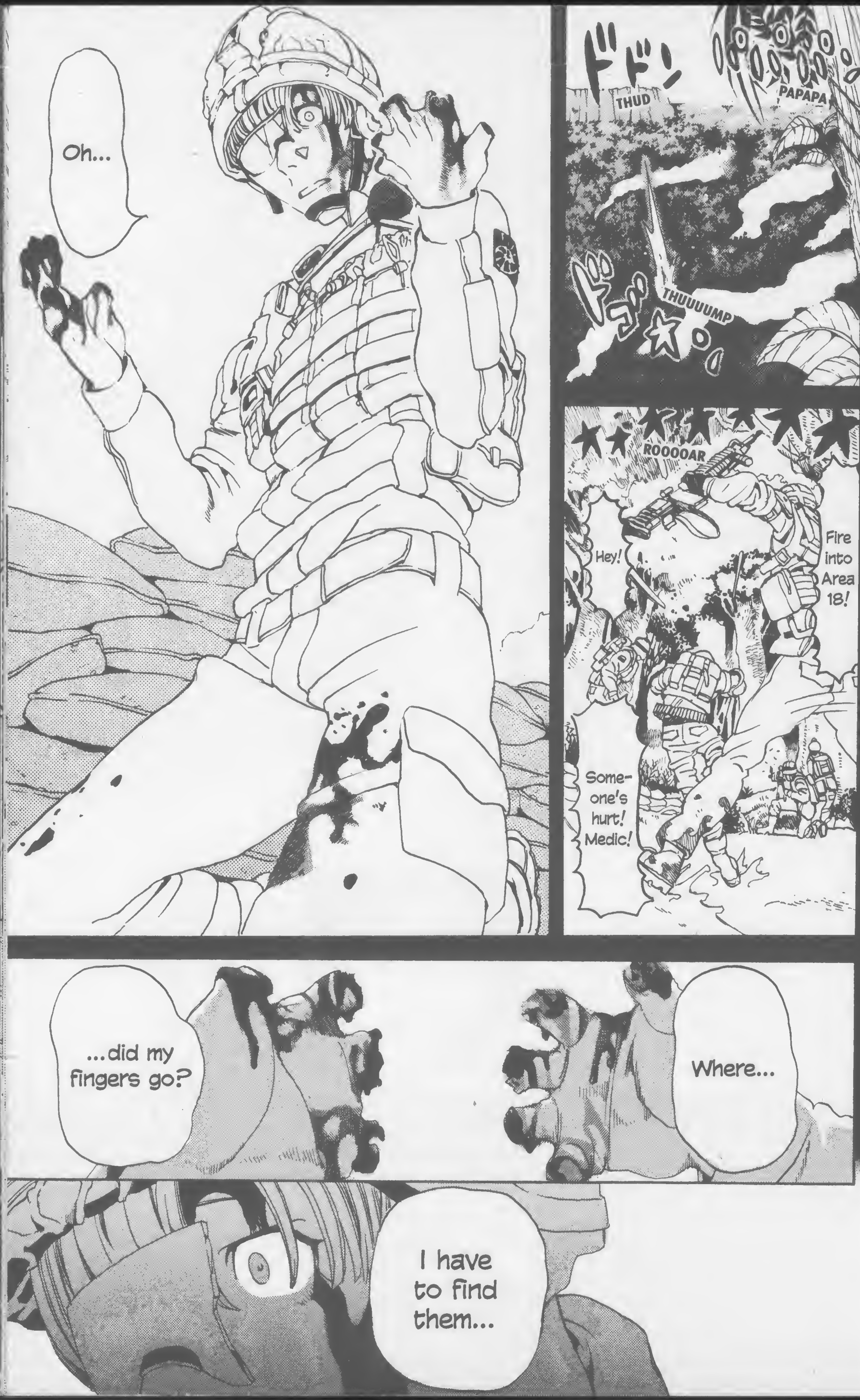

Huh? Rune Balot?
There you are!
Where were you?
Why didn't you show up on the map, or my heat vision?
Is my equipment messed up?
Wait a second...
What?
You've got a weapon!!!!
Aaaaahhh!!

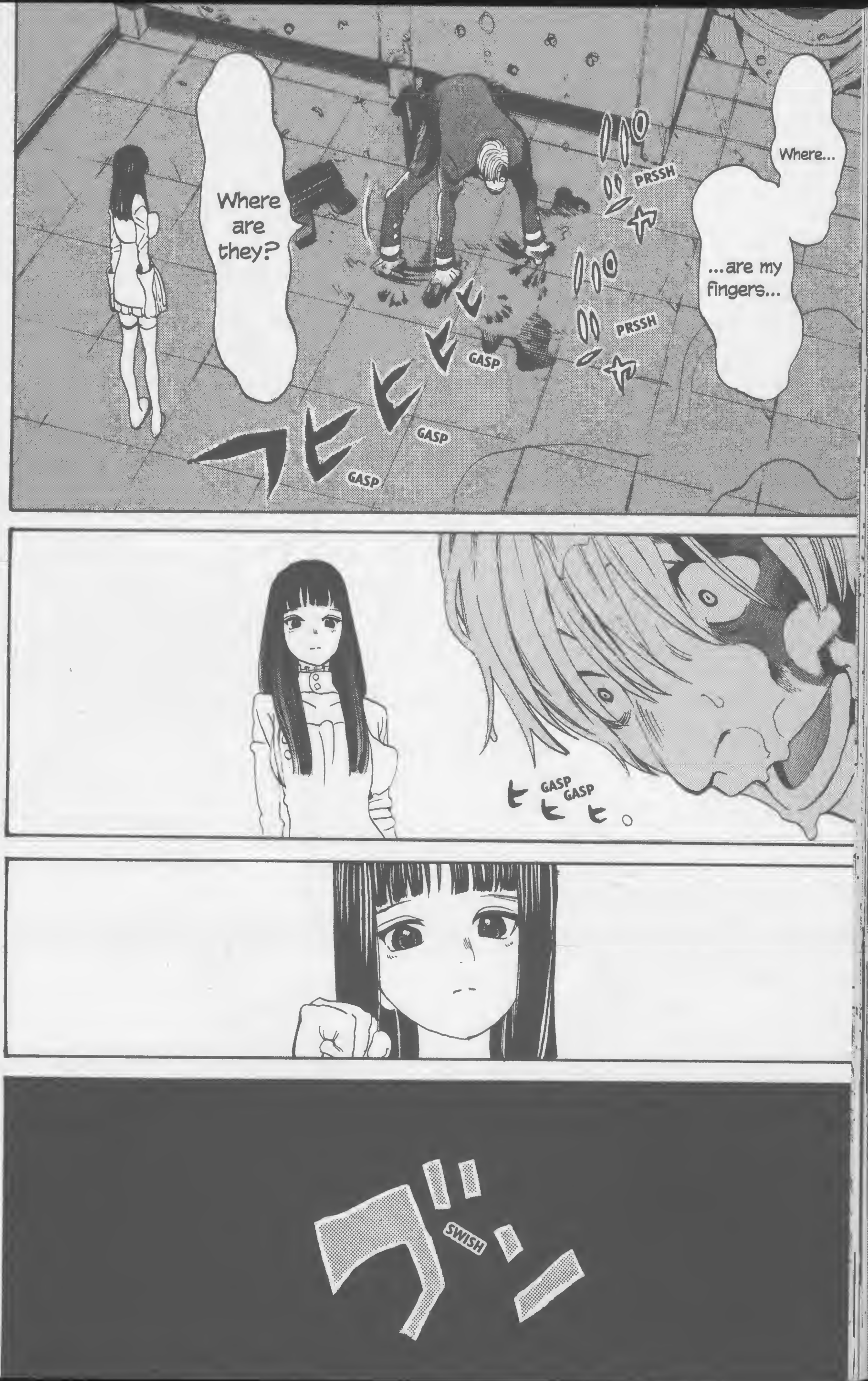

Huh?
W-W-Wait....
ボッ PLOP ト
ボッ PLOP ト
ボッ PLOP ト
ボッ PLOP ト
Fingers...
My fiiiinggee-errss!!

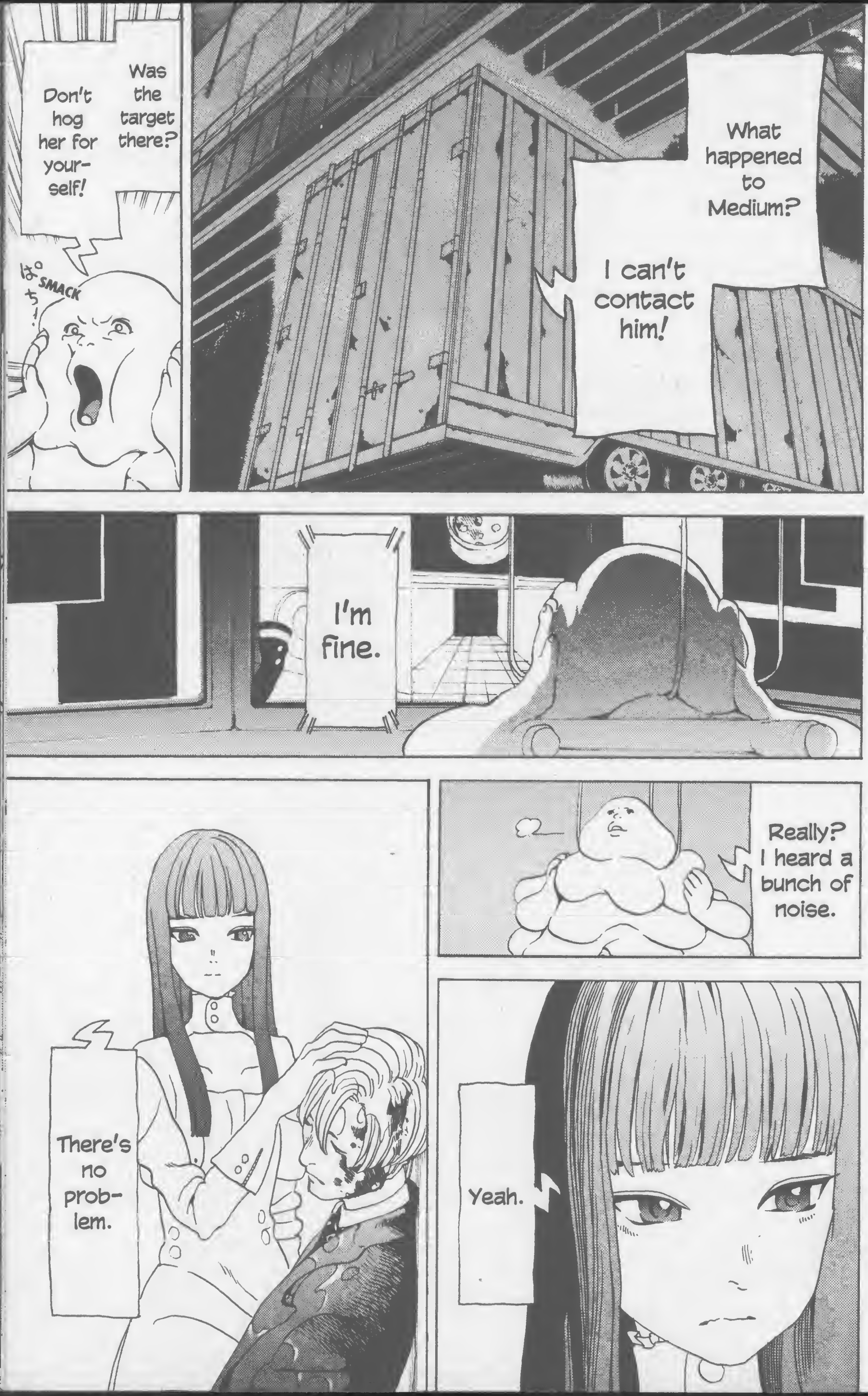

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
This bitch is dangerous!
ドチャ
SPLASH
Grr.
Get away get away get away!!
ガッ
SMACK
CLICK
Get away!!!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
Aggh!
CLACK
Ah?!
Out of bul-lets...
CLICK
Stop! Time out!
S-S-S-S-S-S...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Stop stop stop stop!!

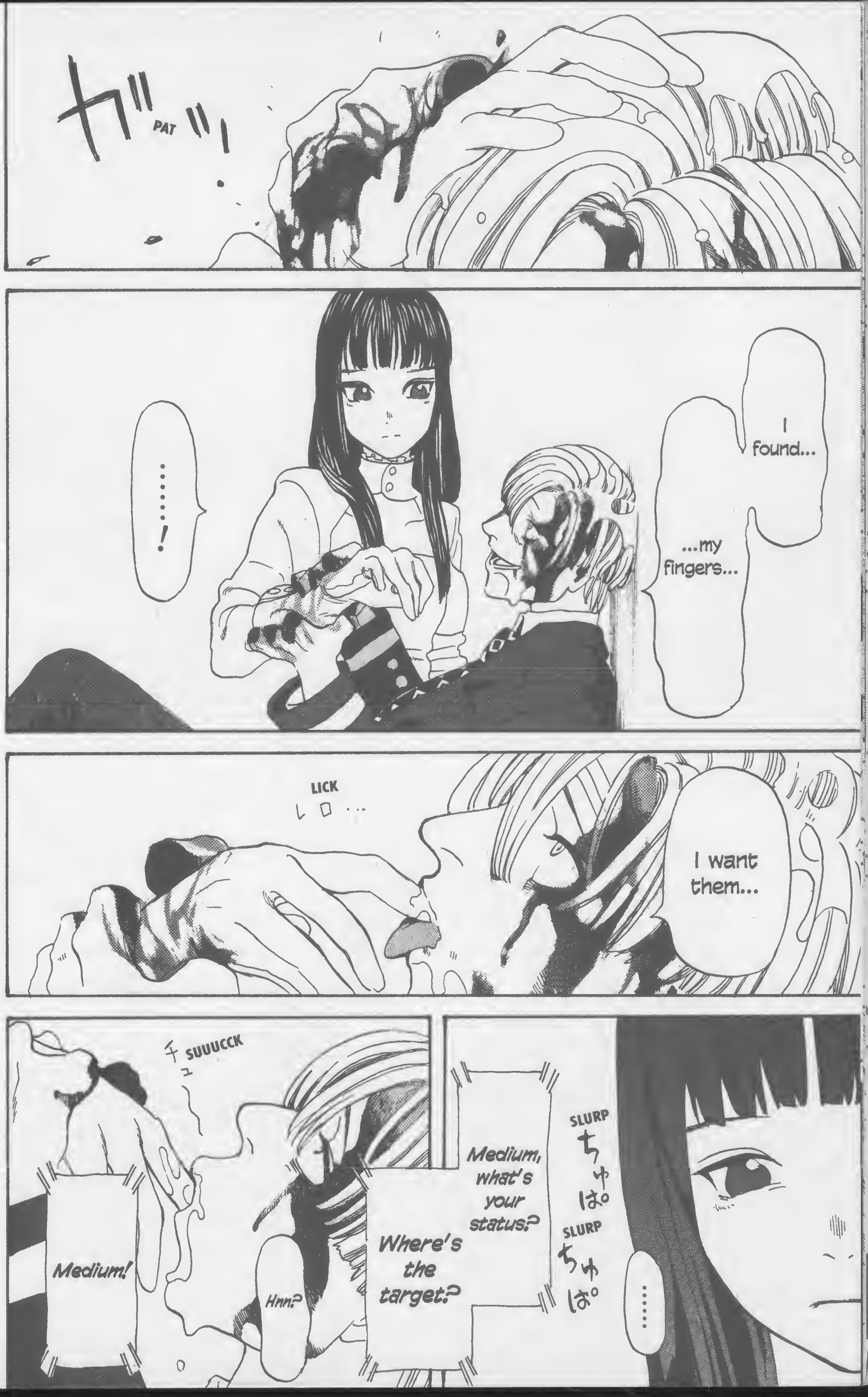

ガコ
CLICK
I said, stop!!
Shoot the magazine, Balot.
BAAAAAANG

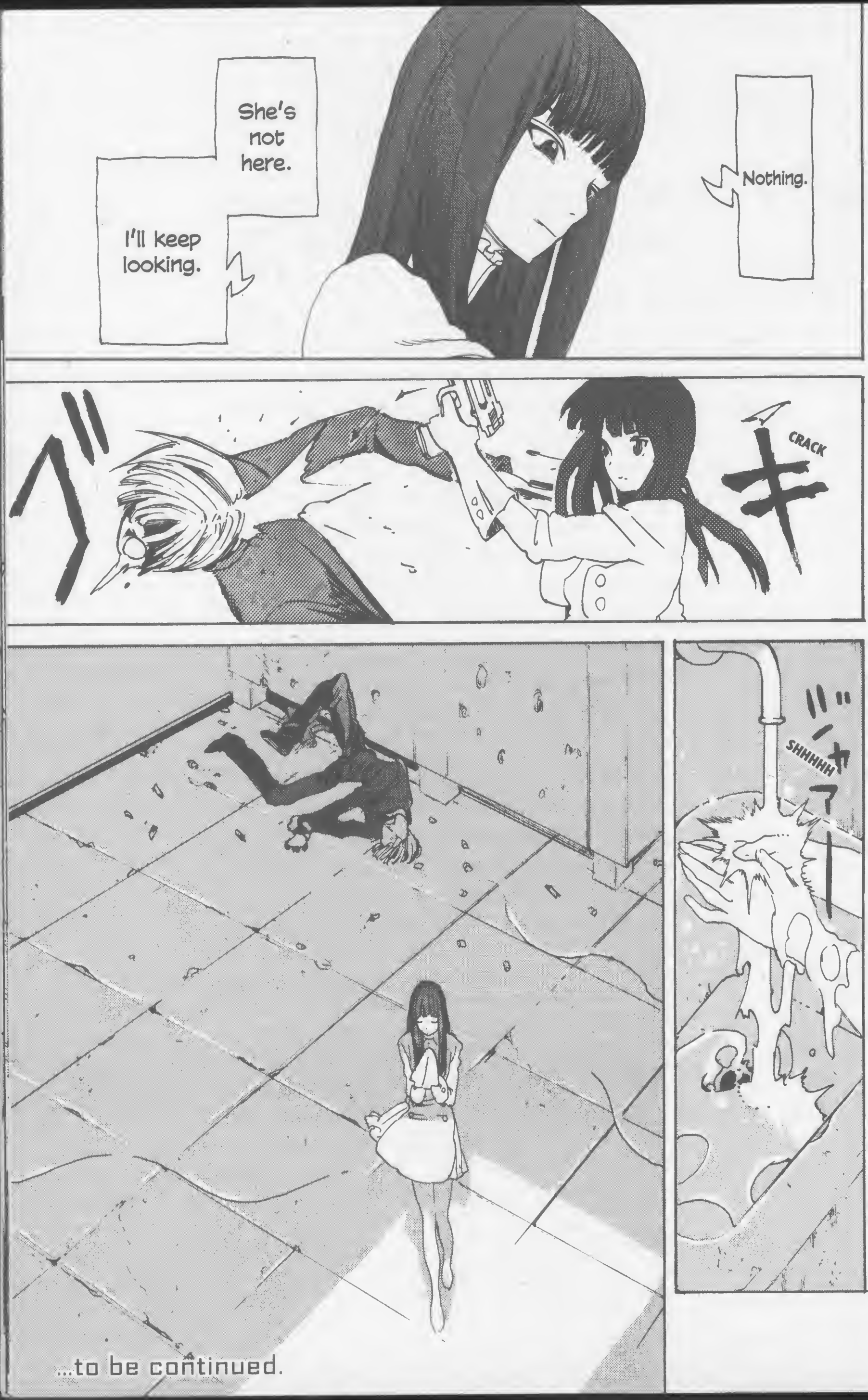

バチ
SNAP
バチ
SNAP
バチ
SNAP
バチ
SNAP
バチ
SNAP
バチ
KRRSSH
Ah...


ドドン
THUD
PAPAPA
ドゴォ
THUUUUMP
ROOOOAR
Fire into Area 18!
Hey!
Some-one's hurt! Medic!
Oh...
Where...
...did my fingers go?
I have to find them...


Where...
...are my fingers...
Where are they?
PRSSH
PRSSH
GASP
GASP
GASP
GASP GASP
SWISH


What happened to Medium?
I can't contact him!
Was the target there?
Don't hog her for your-self!
SMACK
ぱち！
I'm fine.
Really? I heard a bunch of noise.
Yeah.
There's no prob-lem.


ガッ
PAT
I found...
...my fingers...
......!
LICK
レロ...
I want them...
SLURP
ちゅぱ
SLURP
ちゅぱ
......
Medium, what's your status?
Where's the target?
SUUUCCK
チュ
Hnn?
Medium!

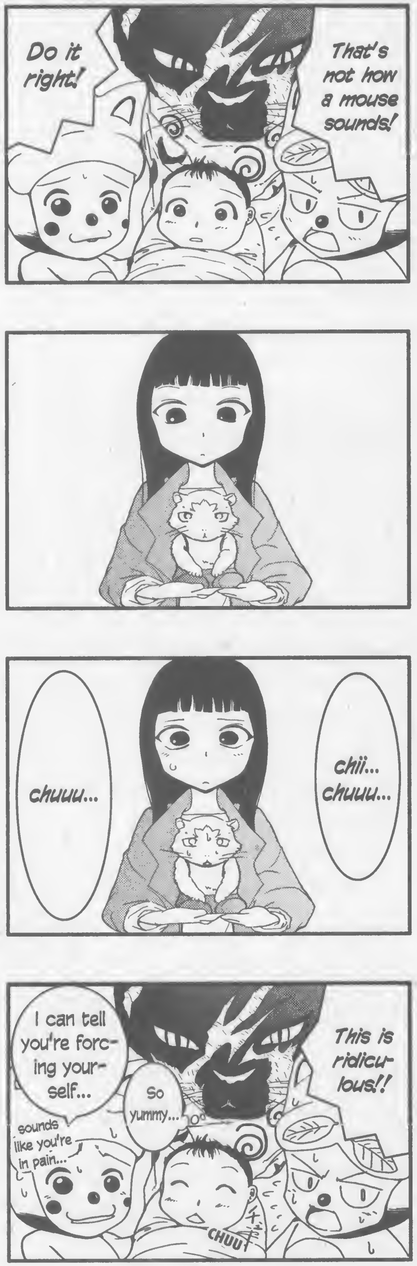

Nothing.
She's not here.
I'll keep looking.
CRACK
キ
SHHHHH
ジャアー

...to be continued.

BONUS MANGA

* Ubukata-sensei's "Mardock Scramble" and "Animal Land" collide!

Animal Sounds


That's not how a mouse sounds!
Do it right!
chii... chuuu...
chuuu...
This is ridiculous!!
So yummy...
I can tell you're forcing yourself...
sounds like you're in pain...
CHUU

*Appeared in the March 2010 issue of Bessatsu Shonen magazine. Œufcoque pretending to be a normal mouse in front of the residents of "Animal Land" is especially cute.

A RIVAL'S TAKE ON OIMA'S "MARDOCK SCRAMBLE"

I'll never forget how shocked I was when Bessatsu Shonen Magazine first introduced me to Oima-san. I was left speechless at the amazing quality of the rough drafts, and how young Oima-san is.

The rough draft was seven pages of character sketches, and seven pages of an action scene. I was dumbfounded. It was amazing. The drawings were wonderful. Oima-san has outstanding talent. But the drawings themselves weren't just good, she had completely captured the essence of Balot and the other characters. Oima's "Mardock Scramble" had already been born, from that rough draft. I decided to meet with her and see more of her work. The deciding factor was that she didn't have anything serialized at the time. I could hardly believe I had such luck.

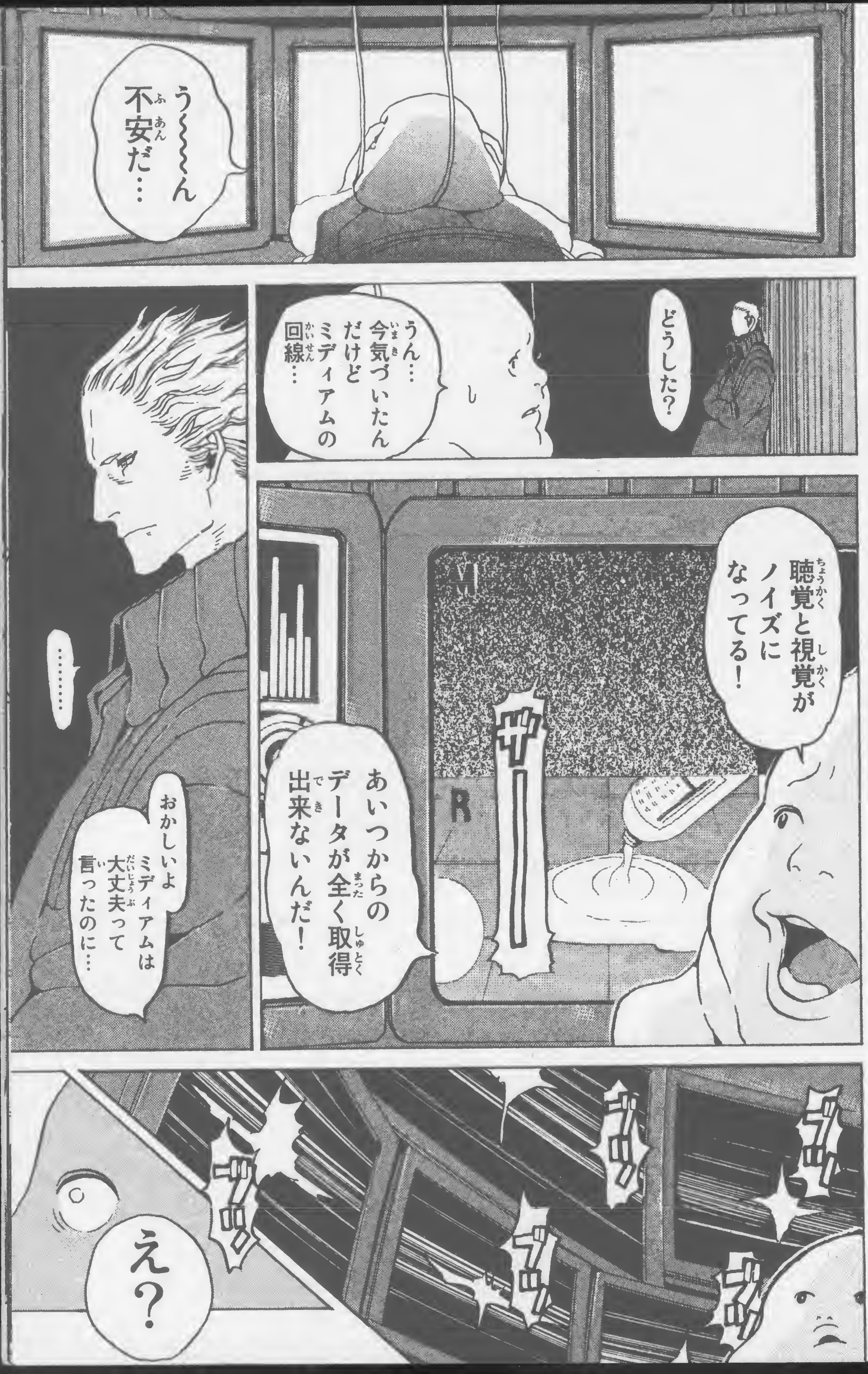
When the manga started, I began to feel a strong sense of competition.

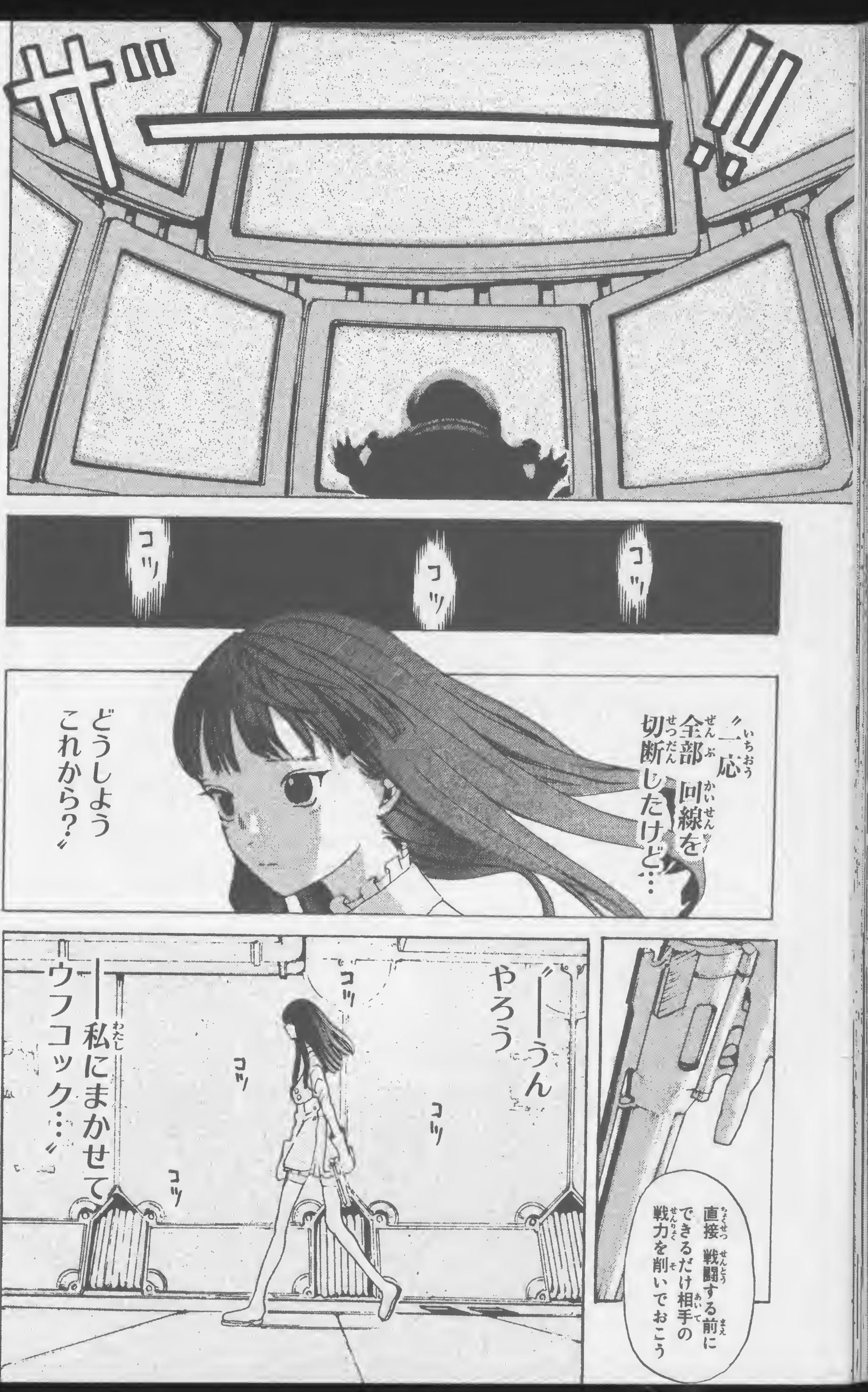
"Does she write my characters better than me?" I wondered.

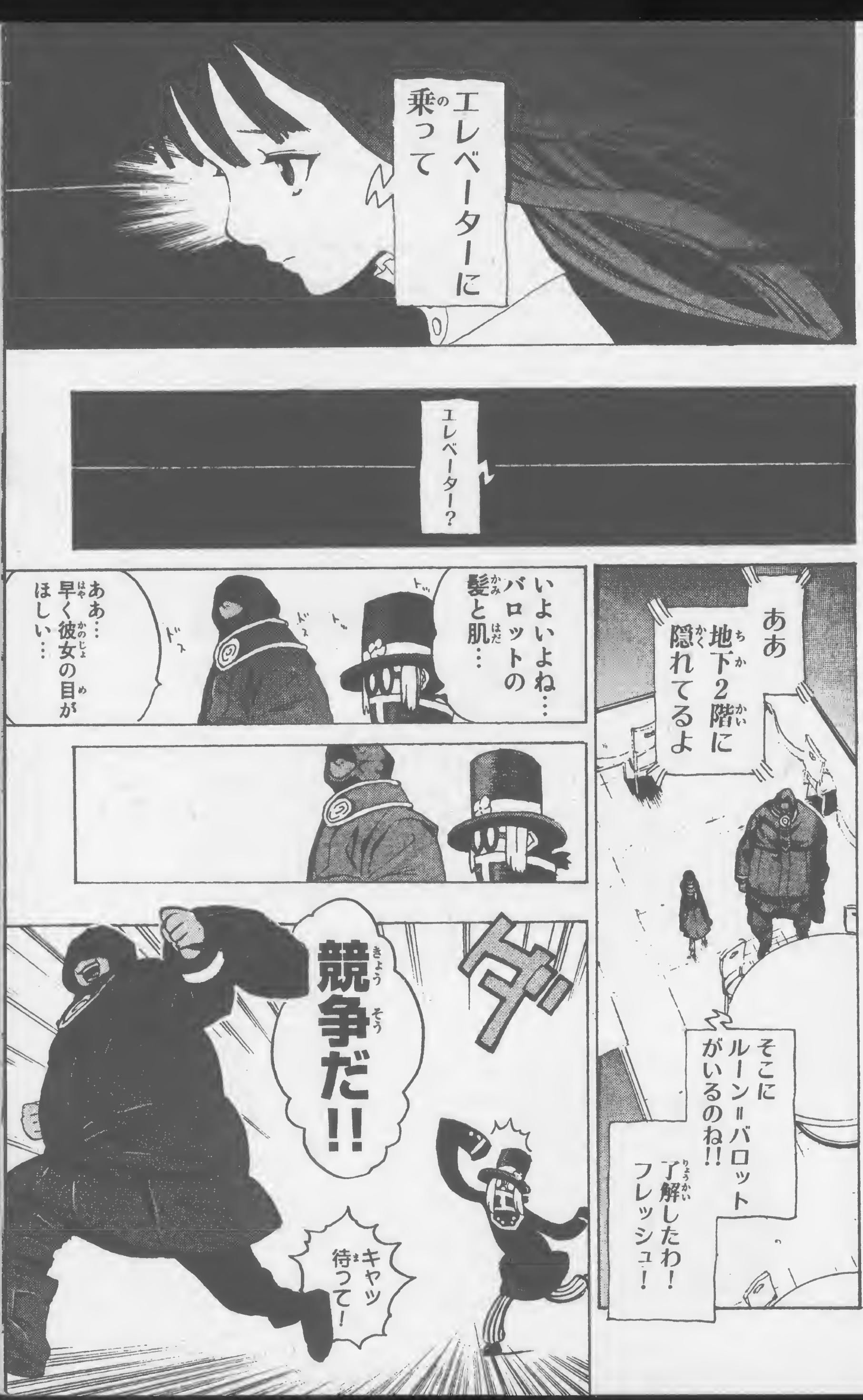
Every month when I read the manga, I'm filled with the desire to do better.

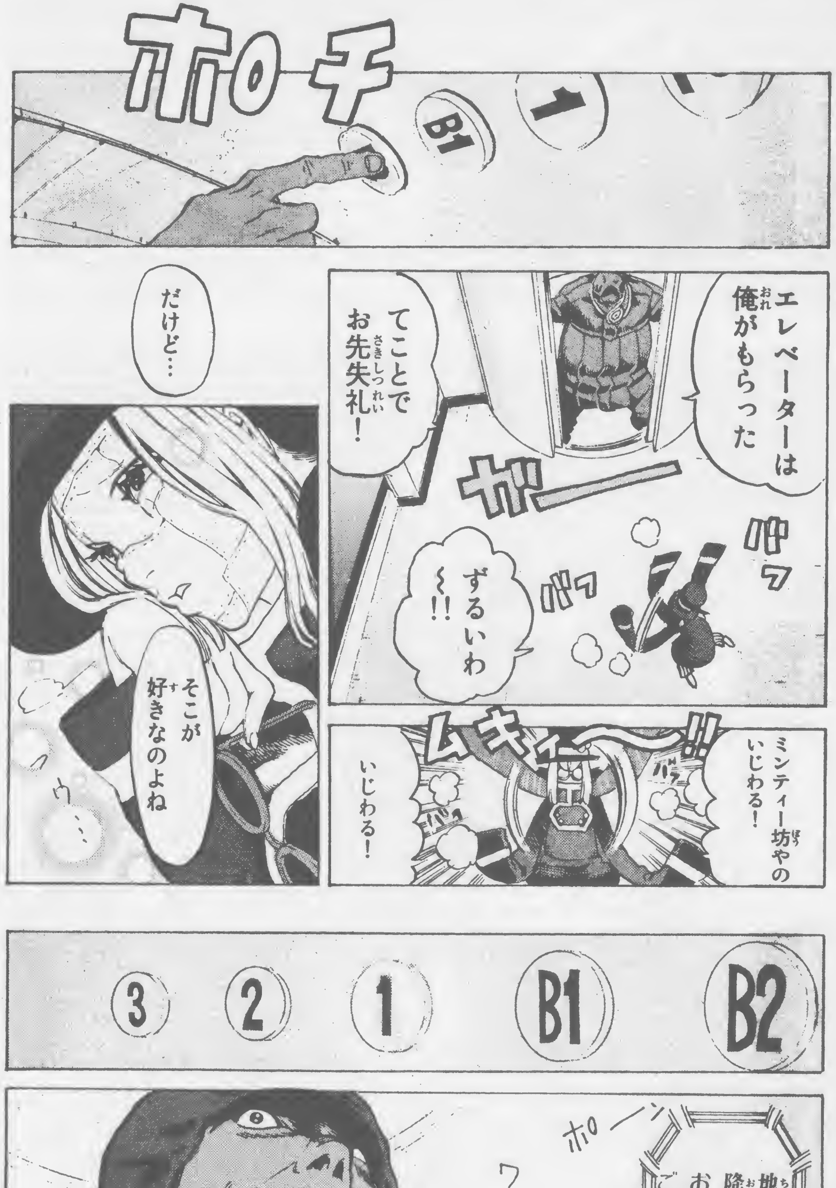
I'm extremely thankful to Yoshitoki Oima-san for her wonderful work, the editors for introducing me to her, and everyone who supports and reads "Oima's Mardock Scramble."

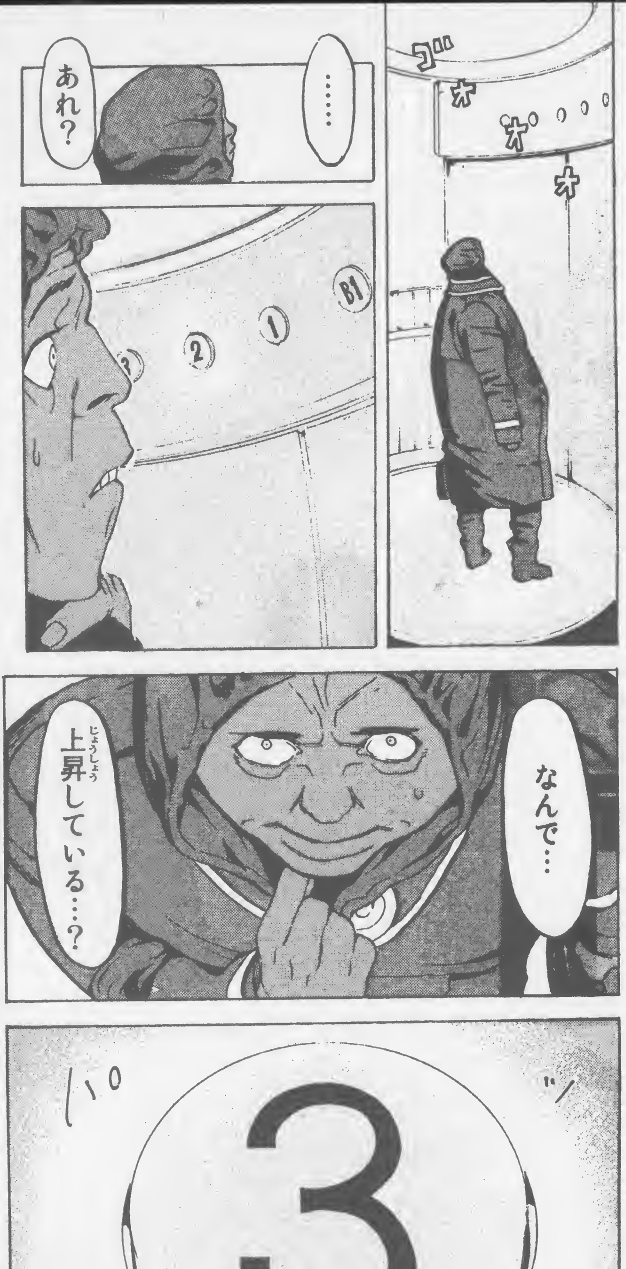
Tow Ubukata


う〜〜ん
不安だ…
どうした?
うん…
今気づいたんだけど
ミディアムの
回線…
聴覚と視覚が
ノイズに
なってる!
ザー
あいつからの
データが全く取得
出来ないんだ!
……
おかしいよ
ミディアムは
大丈夫って
言ったのに…
ブツッ
ブツッ
ブツッ
ブツッ
ブツッ
え?

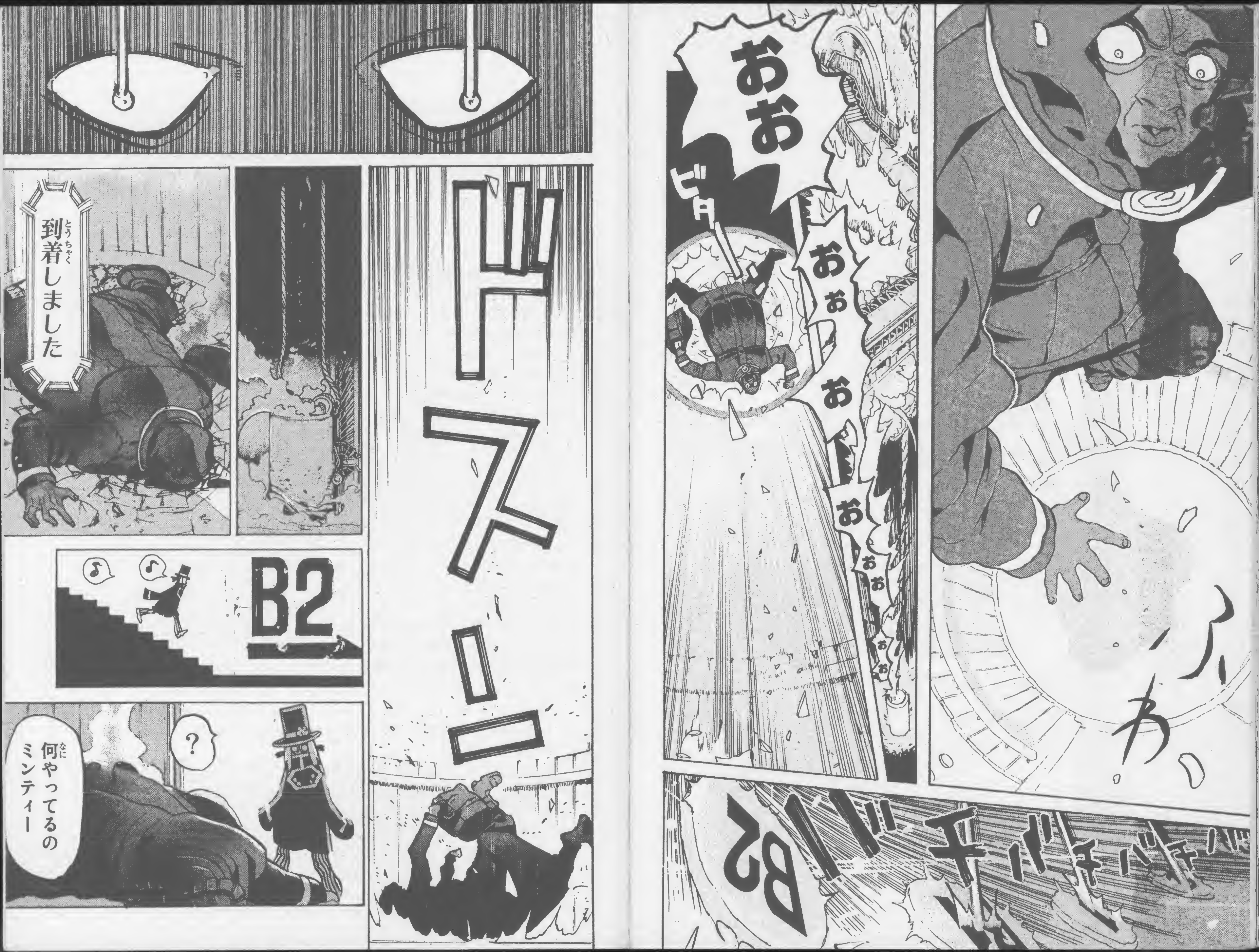

ザ゛ー!!
コッ
コッ
コッ
〝一応 全部 回線を 切断したけど…
どうしよう これから?〟
直接 戦闘する前に できるだけ相手の 戦力を削いでおこう
〝うん やろう
私にまかせて ウフコック…〟
コッ
コッ
コッ
コッ
コッ


エレベーターに 乗って
エレベーター?
ああ 地下2階に 隠れてるよ
いよいよね… バロットの 髪と肌…
トッ
トッ
ドスッ
ドスッ
ああ… 早く彼女の目が ほしい…
そこに ルーン=バロット がいるのね!! 了解したわ! フレッシュ!
ダッ
競争だ!!
キャッ 待って!


ポチ
B1
1
エレベーターは俺がもらった
てことでお先失礼!
ガーー
バタ
バタ
ずるいわ〜!!
だけど…
そこが好きなのよね
ウ…
ミンティー坊やのいじわる!
ムキィ〜〜!!
いじわる!
3
2
1
B1
B2
ポーン
地下2階に降ります
お足下にご注意下さい
ワク
ワク


ゴ
オ
オ
オ
……
あれ?
B1
1
2
3
なんで…
上昇している…?
3
パ
ン

お足下にご注意下さい


ふわ
おお
ビタ
おぉぉおおおおおおお
バチバチバチバチ
B2
ドスーーー
到着しました
B2
？
何やってるの
ミンティー